



RAMSDEN BELLHOUSE

Village Magazine

Winter 2011



Friends of St Mary's Amble Ramble in Norsey Woods

A Word from the Editor

Hello once more. It's very hard not to write an introduction exactly the same as I wrote this time last year - you know all about summer events being over, and winter events looming up - so I'll launch straight into something else.

First of all, I would like to correct the impression that if an entry is "anon", I have written it. Not true! I am much too big-headed to write "anon"!, but I respect the wishes of anyone who does so. Many people wrongly congratulated me on the anonymous article in the previous issue, and I have passed these congratulations on to the "anon" person. I am glad to include any views of local people, and would be happy to do so, bearing in mind I take no responsibility for views expressed.

My Garden Party in August was a record breaker, both in the £440+ raised for "Anvil House", and the number of people roughly 120, who came, stayed and enjoyed themselves. I have had a very appreciative letter from Anvil House, which is a home in Billericay for handicapped adults, and I take this opportunity to pass on their thanks to all those who gave up their time to help make the afternoon such a success. You all know it wouldn't happen without you, so I add my thanks as well.

Years ago two big grumbles in this magazine were bonfires and dog excreta. Well the latter is very rare now, it's almost a pleasure to walk through the village today.

I say almost because there is another pavement problem. Builders, gardeners, home workers etc do park across the pavement. Please see they don't block the footpath outside your house. Mothers taking children to Preschool, dog walkers and people walking to the shop, or Village Hall, should not be expected to step into the road. I know that parking may be difficult, but that is not the problem of the pedestrian. Their problem is not getting killed in the process, and they do have priority on the footpath.

Regarding bonfires - much better since the introduction of garden wheelie bins. But for the benefit of new residents it has long been an unwritten law not to light a bonfire until after 4pm. Please tell your gardeners, as they probably don't read this magazine.

Thanks to everyone who has helped with the production and delivery of this magazine.

Isabel Johnson

PHOTOS BY DICK WELLBORNE AND PETER DEBENHAM

Chairman's Report

Summer now appears to be over and we are heading for the Autumn and the cold Winter.

During the Summer we carried out some vital work on the heating system.

Radiators were fixed in the Old Hall toilets, thus completing this refurbishing work. The boiler was serviced and new flame tubes were fitted. This proved a little expensive but had to be done. The New Hall floor was re-surfaced, so should be good for a few more years.

On the social side, Joan had her Art Show during the August Bank Holiday.

This is always very successful and we are indebted over the years to Joan for organising it, thanks also to her band of helpers for the work they put in to make it the success that it is.

The last event of the Village Hall year, on the 10th December, is the Christmas Bazaar. There will be plenty of stalls for the adults, games, Father Christmas and fancy dress for the kids so come along and enjoy yourselves.

The Village Hall Charity for this year is Help for Heroes as was voted for at the Annual General Meeting. See if we can top our record for these brave young soldiers. If you would like to make a donation please speak to me, or any of the Committee Members or Section Leaders.

Lastly, the Village Hall website is being up-dated, so log into ramsdenbellhouse.info for Village information and events. If you want to be on our mailing list let us have your e-mail address, the instructions for which are on the home page of our website.

Clive Jeffree - Chairman
Ramsden Bellhouse Village Hall
chairman@ramsdenbellhouse.info



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St George's Day Breakfast

Christmas Carols and Songs Quiz

Complete the name of the carol or song from the clues below:

Example: O.I.R.D.C = Once in Royal David's City - good luck! See how many you can!
There may be more than one answer!!

1	O.I.R.D.C.	15	D.T.K.I.C.	29	W.T.K.
2	S.C.I.C.T.T.	16	W.S.G.S.U.T.C.	30	R.A.T.C.T.
3	D.D.M.O.H.	17	M.B.C.	31	L.D.
4	L.C.	18	A.I.A.M.	32	I.W.I.C.B.C.E.
5	S.N.	19	H.C.S.C.	33	I.T.B.M.W.
6	R.T.R.N.R.	20	H.X. [W.I.O.]	34	I.S.M.K.S.C.
7	T.F.N.	21	G.K.W.	35	C.T.M.A.W.
8	J.B.	22	O.C.A.Y.F.	36	W.W.Y.A.M.C.
9	M.C.E.	23	T.H.A.T.I.	37	F.T.S.
10	O.L.T.O.B.	24	W.C.	38	I.D.J.
11	G.R.Y.M.G.	25	I.B.I.F.C.	39	L.D.B.
12	W.A.C.I.B.	26	G.C.M.R.	40	S.B.R.
13	S.A.T.W.S.	27	D.T.H.		
14	T.D.O.C.	28	H.T.H.A.S.		

Answers Page 9



Whist

Another report for the monthly whist sessions, as the autumn issue of the Village magazine arrives at your door. We have had several new players joining, some from Ramsden Heath and some coming from the Bridge School at Barleylands. We manage to retain the 'Fun' part of the 'Fun Whist' title and are delighted to see new faces at the tables. As the evenings draw in, think of a social game of whist, second Saturday of each month at 7-15pm, to meet a lovely group of people, have a cup of tea some light hearted conversation and stir the 'little grey cells' into activity. Beginners are very welcome too, so if you've never played before, give it a try! Our impressive ex-school bell has disappeared and we rely now on a pretty little brass one whose tinkle doesn't quite have the same dramatic importance when ringing the change of tables. If anyone knows its whereabouts we'd love to have it back! Make a note in your diary for 12th November and 10th December (the evening of the Village Christmas Bazaar) for our Christmas session. Hope you can join us

Angela Hodivala



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Art Exhibition

Once again Ramsden Bellhouse Village Hall was awoken to the Bank Holiday Art Exhibition and St Mary's Church Flower Festival.

320 pictures and photographs were hung in both Halls and tablefuls of Portfolios.



The children's pictures were sweet maybe we shall see some of them up for sale one day. I am very proud to see the standard increase throughout so keep wielding those paint brushes.

Friday evening we hang the pictures (thank you Bowls for vacating

the premises sharply) and the noise is tremendous. Greetings – hugs - work admiration etc. Early Saturday morning I look at them all neatly on the stands and glow with satisfaction and wish them all good luck!

There was a gentle flow of viewers (never enough of course) who donated and wrote thanks and comments in the Visitors Book.

A beautiful Dulux dog was donated by a friend and was named by a Daddy who had just had a new baby. He helped swell the Raffle and books etc. Each year I



yearn to make £1,000 for the Village Hall running costs. (Only made it once and that was the Millennium) Celia and I thought that I had made it this year but the bank decided we were £30 out. However a stalwart effort – maybe next year.



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Ollie is 3 years old and a grandson of one of the residents at Park Lodge. He gave me some outgrown books for my Charity. He asked his Grandparents, 'What is a Charity?' They explained. He then boxed up his tractors and said that he was too old to play with them now and would give them to Joan's Charity. Isn't that so lovely. Bless him.

My huge thanks to the boys erecting the stands etc, Isabel and the girls for Refreshments. Mary and Pat on the Top Table, the Raffle team and book sellers etc. Mainly though for family and friends who came to visit, view and help. Thank you to all who purchased pictures, it is such a thrill when you sell something that you have created.

Please put August Bank Holiday weekend in your 2012 diaries and if any body can help me in any way on the stalls I would be grateful.

Have a good happy and healthy year.

Love Joan - 01277 655379

Since this entry came in, the total has been corrected to over £1000.

The Friends of St Mary's

Having completed the new annexe to the church with its toilets, kitchen and new condensing boiler we are now faced with having to consider what to do next. When dealing with an old listed building there is always something that can be done either from the maintenance, preservation or improvement aspect.

Looking round the church there is plenty that can or needs to be put in hand to keep our lovely building an asset we can be proud of.

Some of the possible projects we should consider will include repairing the crumbling wall plasterwork in places as part of the preparation for repainting the whole of the interior of the building.

The present level of illumination could also be improved and while we are about it perhaps we could fit energy saving bulbs which should reduce our running costs.

The collapsed flooring under the church chest has been mentioned before and although not a hazard it is hardly a feature to be proud of.

With the coming of winter we are reminded of the draft that blows through the vestry when the door is left open. This is not an easy one to put on our list if we are to keep the timbers of the tower exposed for visual appreciation, as has been specified by English Heritage.

We will spend the next couple of months putting together a comprehensive wish list of possible projects in order of priority to be presented at the next AGM for members to give their suggestions and opinions. In the meantime if you think of something you would like to see added to our list please let one of the churchwardens know although don't forget that any suggestion will have to be referred to English Heritage for their approval.

Len Ferris



Medcalfs

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Answers to Christmas Quiz

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------------------------|----|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | Once in Royal David's City | 21 | Good King Wenceslas |
| 2 | Santa Claus is coming to town | 22 | Oh Come all Ye Faithful |
| 3 | Ding Dong Merrily On High | 23 | The Holly and the Ivy |
| 4 | Last Christmas | 24 | White Christmas |
| 5 | Silent Night | 25 | I Believe in Father Christmas |
| 6 | Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer | 26 | Good Christian Men Rejoice |
| 7 | The First Noel | 27 | Deck The Halls |
| 8 | Jingle Bells | 28 | Hark The Herald Angels Sing |
| 9 | Merry Christmas Everyone | 29 | We Three Kings |
| 10 | Oh Little Town of Bethlehem | 30 | Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree |
| 11 | God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen | 31 | Little Donkey |
| 12 | When a Child is Born | 32 | I Wish it could be Christmas Everyday |
| 13 | See Amid the Winter Snow | 33 | In the Bleak Mid Winter |
| 14 | Twelve Days of Christmas | 34 | I saw Mummy kissing Santa Claus |
| 15 | Do They Know it's Christmas | 35 | Christmas Time Mistletoe and Wine |
| 16 | When Santa got stuck up the Chimney | 36 | We Wish you a Merry Christmas |
| 17 | Mary's Boy Child | 37 | Frosty the Snowman |
| 18 | Away in a Manger | 38 | In Dulce Jubilo |
| 19 | Here comes Santa Claus | 39 | Little Drubber Boy |
| 20 | Happy Xmas (War is over) | 40 | Sleigh Bells Ring |

Cub Report

The cub pack has had a very good summer with many outdoor activities e.g. canoeing, hiking, camping and making bivvies (a temporary shelter). Summer camp this year was a very large affair organised by the county scout team. This event was 'mega' with so many activities. Cubs were active all day. They also had opportunities to achieve many badges e.g. science, artist and many more, this Mega Camp was held at Skreens in Chelmsford and gave young people good scouting skills. A district event that cubs attended was a visit to Duxford Air Museum, 9 cubs gained their air activities badge on the day. Early in October, 7 of our older cubs attended an overnight hike. At this stage we are teaching cubs to be more independent to get them prepared for going into the Scout Troop. Cubs were expected to put their own tents up then go on a 3 hour hike and on returning make fires to cook themselves a simple meal. In the morning after restarting their fires they then cooked themselves breakfast. Before they went home they had to wash up, take their tents down and make sure they left the site clean. By the time their parents arrived to collect them they were very tired but proud of themselves.

Akela



Scout Report

After the summer break, which seems to have lasted an age, the Scouts started again on 14th September, meeting in the car park of the White Horse, for a circular moonlit hike around Ramsden Heath.

Two Scouts left in the summer, one of them emigrating to Canada. However, two more have joined and at the time of writing we have 29 Scouts.

The weekly programme has been varied as usual with a mix of badge work and other skills along with two team challenges, basketball and rounders. The Scouts enjoyed working towards their PR badge by producing videos on different aspects of Scouting that were shown at the Scout Group Annual General Meeting on 15th June. Topics covered included the history of scouting and outnights (once a month we meet away from the village hall).

14 Scouts and two leaders took part in the Billericay & District Scout Camp in France during May and had a marvellous and exhausting time.

Activities included hiking, climbing and canoeing.

In June 16 Scouts and five leaders took part in GIGA Camp at Skreens Park near Chelmsford. Over 1,000 Scouts and Guides had a wonderful weekend camp taking part in a huge number of activities including archery and canoeing. A massive disco was held each night and the contestants of GIGAs Got Talent amazed the audience! The weather was challenging with the tents being put up in the rain on the Friday followed by a storm on Saturday. Typical camping weather! By Sunday it had brightened up so the tents could be put away dry.

During the last weeks before the summer holidays, the Scouts continued their rounders practice and thoroughly enjoyed a mass water pistol fight and a visit to the Brentwood Karting track to test their driving skills.

On the last week of the summer term the traditional barbecue was held. A huge number of hot dogs and burgers were consumed by the Scouts, Cubs, parents, grandparents and other guests followed by a mass rounders match. A fitting end to the Scouting year.

Chris Maker, Assistant Scout Leader

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The New Sewing Machine

It arrived to replace an old friend who had served my family for more than 60 years, but had now spewed forth its electric parts, and was deemed to be dangerous. The new one wasn't really new, it was donated by a distant relative, but was welcomed together with some thirty pages of instructions.

I set aside a whole day to learn its use and thought happily of some old curtains that I would transform into bright new cushion covers. (I had been instructed by my daughter to throw them away - how impressed she would be with my handiwork!)

I settled down with a cup of coffee and the thirty pages of instructions. I struggled a bit with them being in several languages, and some appeared to belong to a different machine, but page 2 headed "Danger" implored me at all costs to read it before doing anything. I learnt that I must *not* drop the machine into water or any other liquid, and if I was fool enough to do this to unplug it before rescuing it. (I could hardly lift it, let alone drop it into a bath).

I've heard of reading in the bath but never actually hemming a skirt, or shortening a pair of trousers, while in the bath. I have enough trouble getting myself in the bath, let alone heaving a heavy sewing machine in with me! And does anyone keep their machine on the sink draining board to perhaps make a blouse between washing the dishes?

Right - time to get down to the business - find the chart that names all the parts, and identify them on my lovely new second-hand shiny friend. The chart however appears to bear no resemblance to what is in front of me, and this is because it is a chart for a different machine. However I've done lots of sewing - so I will find out for myself. I decide to learn how to wind the bobbin. I do not plug in the machine in case there is a bath of water hiding under the table.

After considerable searching I locate the bobbin. I need a torch to see how to get it out, but too much comes out and it already has cotton on it which spreads out all over the table. Half an hour later I have reassembled it. Never mind - all will become apparent - I will learn how to lift the foot in order to place the material under it. I try a lever - nothing happens, so I press something and the foot falls off! This is not in the plan. Half an hour later, the foot is on again but will not go down. I find I have a throbbing pain in my head and neck. The instructions are lost among the thirty pages of foreign languages and fancy stitching. My hair is laying in heaps on the floor where I have pulled it out, and somewhere in my throat screams are forming.

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But I will not be beaten! I cleverly find out how to reverse the stitching backwards - if only I could lower the foot. I press the wrong lever again and the foot falls off once more. Half an hour later the foot is on again, and I stare belligerently at the monster on the table. Then the phone goes - I leap up - knock the machine and the bobbin drops out (obviously not assembled properly), falls and wraps the cotton round my leg. I go to the phone complete with bobbin dragging behind me, and answer it between clenched teeth. A disembodied voice demands to speak to my late husband. The final straw! "No you can't" I yell "he's been dead fifteen years".

And then I knew, the new second-hand machine and I would never be friends. I hated it, and it hated me. I reassembled it to the best of my limited ability, the foot still falling off at regular intervals, and pushed the thirty pages of useless information into its plastic envelope. I covered my enemy with a supermarket carrier bag and slunk away. I had not stitched a stitch, let alone made beautiful cushion covers to boast of!

My enemy goes back to my distant relative if I don't throw it into a bath, remembering of course, to unplug it first, and in its place, I have a beautiful lightweight new model - with only one page of instructions in English. But I still haven't made those cushions covers!

Isabel Johnson

PS. And you wonder why I don't have a computer??



Teddies for Tragedies Essex Branch

This summer a further 2344 teddies were distributed in Zambia, Chernobyl, Hungary and Kosovo taking our grand total to 270,177 since 1995. We've also sent 500 clowns to Sri Lanka and Kosovo and blankets, hats, jumpers, cardigans, slippers and baby clothes have gone to Sierra Leone, Zambia and Kosovo.



At present we have an order for 2100 teddies and as many clowns as can be produced for the convoy going to Kosovo and the surrounding area at the end of September. I am hopeful that we will reach the target of 2100 as many of my knitters are clicking their needles feverishly including me! They are wanted by 11 primary schools, hospitals, homes and poor areas. So far I have about 1800 teddies and 185 clowns. Still it is good to know that I have the outlets ready when the teddies come in.

Many of my contacts particularly ask for pens, pencils, crayons etc. for the children so if you are able to help in this direction please let me know!!

Thank you to all of you who have given me your 500gr margarine boxes and given me bars of soap and also the little toiletries given in hotels when you've been on holiday. I think we have been able to fill 2000 boxes ready for the convoy to Kosovo. I understand these boxes are highly prized by the people who receive them.

Once the convoy has left me I then start filling shoeboxes ready to leave me in November to get to their destinations in time for Christmas so this becomes a very busy time. I know many of you, by the time you read this, will have helped by filling shoeboxes and it makes it so worthwhile knowing that you have given a child or an adult such joy who otherwise would not get anything at all. To show them that someone cares means everything to them.

Wishing you all good health and happiness this Christmas.

God bless.

Audrey Pegrum MBE, Essex Branch Organiser

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In the Summer edition of this magazine our minister, Geoffrey Griggs, contributed his final article on behalf of the Baptist church and wrote about a man called Hilkiah from the Old Testament having found a long forgotten book, the Book of Law which we call the Bible. Through the book having being lost, people in his land had lost touch with the Law of God and it was only on finding it that they realised what a moral mess the country had slipped into over the years.

Since the last village magazine was published a lot has happened. Geoffrey and Ann have retired and Ann has been diagnosed with a serious illness. This much loved couple need our prayers as they deal with the situation.

On a national level, there have been riots in the streets of several cities and it appears that the rule of law was forgotten for a while and in some places the rule of law seems to have deteriorated badly over a period of years. It seems that some of the people involved in the riots did not feel valued and did not feel part of the wider society in which we live. They neither love themselves or others.

In 1 Corinthians Chapter 13 v7-13, the apostle Paul talks about love, that is love expressed in action. Everyone believes that love is important and it is easy to love our families and friends. It is not easy to love someone we do not know and who commits mindless acts of violence. But God loved us so much that He sent his only Son to be sacrificed for us all. Jesus is our example of what it is to love. He did not just deal with people he liked and respected. He dealt with those who were alienated and those who were deemed to be unacceptable in society.

We believe that God wants us to work at building a society where everyone is included and valued. Improvement in the current situation may take generations but perhaps it may be worth looking at what Paul says about love in the passage quoted. Amongst the many options open to us when we love, we learn that whilst love does not delight in evil, it does actively pursue hope for better things and it perseveres in difficult times such as these. Perhaps we are already beginning to see love in action by the banding together of people to clear up and rebuild their communities.

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WEDDING FLOWERS

Bowls

Derek Jackson's 80th birthday. What a surprise, he thought he was needed to do some repairs etc at the hall. With everybody sworn to secrecy we waited inside the hall, family, friends and all silently waiting for Derek to arrive. The look on his face when he saw us all, was a joy to behold. After a burst of "Happy Birthday", the party began.

Back to reality, the Club Championships was won by John Pledger for the singles and Jack and Carole Mac for the pairs, well done to you all.

We again had a marvellous day at the Charity Garden Party and thank our host and hostess, Rusi and Angela Hodivala for allowing the club to use their lovely garden. As always the food was excellent. There were some games, shooting at a target of Polos, yes the minty one, boules, darts, croquet etc. The most difficult quiz was, "Who do you think they are". This was photos of members, some when they were babies, teens and adults. Some from the rear (I don't know how we were suppose to recognise that one) and some fellow in a dress. All good fun.

On a different note, we invited Tony Hayes to give tuition to members to help with any problems. This was very much appreciated and most of the club attended. Thanks to Tony.

Four members participated in an All Day bowls competition against twelve other teams and after all the matches were played Ramsden Bellhouse came a congratulatory 2nd place. The team players were Tom and Sylvia Ealham and John and Carol Finn. Well done, keeping our club in the news.

Bert Edward's poem was broadcast on BBC Essex which was dedicated to his bowl's partner Rose Kinsell who sadly passed away. So our club is not just bowls, we have many other talents.

With all the friendly matches and social activities we seem to be busy. The league matches start soon so best of luck to all three teams participating.

Carol Finn

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Horticultural Summer show



Teas and coffees at Isabel's Garden Party



Horticultural Stall at Summer Fete



Barbeque at Summer Fete



Left: Winners of Bumpy Lawn Bowls at Isabel's Garden Party



Right: Bert wins a raffle prize at the Garden Party

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References Available

Bygone Years

Ramsden Crays Council School - now Crays Hill Primary has recently been much in the local and national news. The following is the first page of the log book written in 1926 by the Headmaster Mr H. C. Bear. Further pages can be seen at the 'History of Ramsden' next year.

1	1926	
Sept 6 th	I opened the New Ramsden Crays Council School on Sept 6 th 1926 at 9 a.m. 130 children were admitted and were placed in the following classes.	
	Class I	Std. V-VII 30
	" II	" VI-VII 34
	" III	" I-II 34
	" IV	Infants 29
		Total 130
	Staff	
	Class I	Mr H. C. Bear Head Master.
	" II	Mrs. Lark Best class.
	" III	Miss Mears Supplementary Teacher.
	" IV	Mrs. Clarke do
		Miss J. Thomas Pupil Teacher 2 nd year
	Mrs and Mrs Bacon, School Managers, and the Rev. J. Ironside paid a visit during the day and saw all classes at work.	
Sept 8 th	The Rev. Carpenter of Basilton also saw all classes at work.	
Sept 9 th	School Nurse saw all children in the School.	
Sept 10 th	148 children on Books this day.	
	Total attendances	1405 As at 1110
		45/0

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The New Schools, Crays Hill

"Hark! the herald-angels sing"

Everyone has their favourite Christmas Carol. I think that most people still prefer traditional ones, but others like more modern carols too. I like most carols. (Could I say otherwise???) But my all-time favourite has to be Charles Wesley's great rousing hymn, "Hark, the herald-angels sing".

The first verse echoes the message of the angels to the shepherds on the hillside taking care of their sheep. And makes mention of the purpose of the new-born King coming into the world, that men and women like us might be reconciled with God.

Hark, the herald angels sing
glory to the new-born King,
peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.

The second verse attempts to describe to us the mystery of Christmas, the [holy] incarnation. To incarnate means to give human form to, to personify. The child Jesus is no ordinary child. He is both the incarnate Deity, God in human form, and also fully human, man with man to dwell.

The name "Emmanuel" was the name of the child announced by the prophet Isaiah (7:14) and, in Hebrew, it means "God is with us."

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see:
hail, the incarnate Deity,
pleased as Man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

The third and final verse summarises in a few words the Christian hope. God, in Jesus Christ, has humbled himself, taken our human form, and died in our place on the cross, so that we may pass through death, and be raised with him to the life that is to come.

Mild, He lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth,
born to give them second birth.

Charles Wesley's hymn contains more good Christian theology than the average sermon. It is at one and the same time both a statement of faith and also a rousing hymn to sing.

This year, once again, we will be singing traditional carols at our Christmas services. Everyone is welcome to come to any of the services in either of the churches in the village!!! So, whatever your voice may be like, come and join yours to those of the saints and angels singing ... Glory to the new-born king!

With all good wishes for winter and the Christmas season.

Revd Stephen Robertson

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St Mary's Church

Rector: Rev Stephen Robertson, The Rectory, Castledon Road, Downham 01268 710370

Services: 1st Sunday: Evening Prayer 6.30pm (3pm Dec - March)
2nd Sunday: Holy Communion, 9.30am
3rd Sunday: Holy communion 6.30pm (3pm Nov - March)
4th Sunday: Family Service, 10.30am
5th Sunday: Joint Holy Communion, 10am, for all the churches in the group, rotating between them

St Mary's Garden Party on 5th July benefited from a fine afternoon, the forecast rain holding off until all was cleared away. £510 was raised towards the cost of staging the Flower Festival over the August Bank Holiday Weekend, and we are again very grateful to Isabel Johnson for the use of her garden for this event.

The Flower Festival was spared the strong winds that were experienced last year, but it was decidedly chilly for the stallholders, with occasional squally showers. The floral displays in the church were enjoyed by the visitors, but fewer people attended than usual, probably due to the unfriendly weather, which also meant that the Songs of Praise service on Sunday had to be held in the Church rather than in the open air. Thanks are due to the flower arrangers, stallholders and everyone who attended. The event raised a total of £1791 towards the cost of maintaining our beautiful ancient church.

Our joint activities with our friends at the Baptist Church continue, with St Mary's congregation going to the Baptist Church on 10th July, and the Baptist congregation coming to St Mary's on 9th October. Both churches and the Cubs and Scouts will join with many villagers at 10.45am on 13th November in the Village Hall for the annual Remembrance Day Service.

Our Spring Fair on the 14th May raised £622, and the Autumn Fair will take place at the Village Hall on 5th November from 11am to 2.30pm. Ploughman's Lunches will be served, and admission to the event is free.

Our Quiz Nights remain well supported by our regulars, but there's always room for more. The Quiz in April raised £353 for Village Hall funds, and the next, a Charity Quiz in aid of Help for Heroes, will be in the Village Hall on 19th November commencing at 7.30pm prompt. To enter a team (maximum six people) please contact me on (01268) 710757.

The Carol service at St Mary's this year will be at 7.30pm on Thursday, 22nd December, and our Midnight Holy Communion will be at 11.30pm on Christmas Eve.

Alan Pegrum

Monday Morning

At a loose end on Monday mornings? Then why not drop into Emmanuel Hall at the Baptist Church any time between 10.30 am and noon for a coffee or tea and a chat. This event is arranged jointly by the Baptist Church and St Mary's, but is not limited to church members - all, women or men, are very welcome.

Christmas Bazaar with Father Christmas. 10th December



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Parish Council

Since the last edition, I have attended an Essex Parishes' Broadband Conference on behalf of the Parish Council. It was very well attended demonstrating a widespread dissatisfaction with broadband provision in the smaller communities in the county. Although all methods of supply were covered, provision by radio featured most strongly as it had proved in most cases to be the quickest and cheapest option. Samples of the antenna required for a local network were on display. These are smaller than a satellite dish and very unobtrusive. It seems the Chelmsford Diocese is looking favourably on the use of church property for this purpose, which is helpful as the parish church is often the tallest building in a village. The antennae have to be high, especially in rural areas because the signal is disrupted by trees. A file covering the process of getting high speed broadband for a community was provided for each delegate and is currently being studied by the Parish Councillors to see whether it could happen in Ramsden Bellhouse.

Broadband is becoming essential for businesses and desirable for home entertainment, and inadequate provision is starting to affect house prices. If you would be interested in an alternative source, please get in touch as the Parish Council would need to know that there is enough interest to make it viable before starting a project.

Karen Plumridge, Clerk to the Parish Council 01245 400628

karen.plumridge@btinternet.com

www.essexinfo.net/ramsdensbellhouseparishcouncil



Noah' Ark

Everything I need to know, I learned from Noah's Ark.

- ONE : Don't miss the boat.
- TWO : Remember that we are all in the same boat!
- THREE : Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.
- FOUR : Stay fit. When you're 60 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.
- FIVE : Don't listen to critics, just get on with the job that needs to be done.
- SIX : Build your future on high ground.
- SEVEN : For safety's sake, travel in pairs.
- EIGHT : Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.
- NINE : When you're stressed, float awhile.
- TEN : Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.
- ELEVEN : No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.

Please pass this on to people you want to be blessed. Give it! Don't just get it!

Most people walk in and out of your life, but FRIENDS leave footprints in your heart.

Badminton Club

Since our last report we have been fortunate in gaining some new members and would like to welcome Sheila, Karen, Connor, James and Mic - all of whom are very good players. We were sorry Rob had to leave the Club, but hope this is a temporary measure and that we will see him playing again once he is fully mobile.

A huge thanks to ex members and some of Derek's relations who helped erect our china smashing stall at the Fete. We had a steady flow of customers and raised almost £60. It is at this stage I would appeal to the generosity of village residents to ask for any unwanted/chipped china, especially plates and novelty items, to replenish our supply for next year. Items can be left in the box in the new Hall lobby or in the porch of Little Gearies, Church Road (opposite shop).

As always, new reasonably experienced players are welcome. Friday eve 8 - 10, guest fee £3.00.

Glyn Yeldham



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Creamy Baked Haddock & Potatoes

(Microwaved)

14oz smoked haddock (undyed is better but not essential) skinned and chopped into chunks.

1 trimmed leek finely sliced

Handful of parsley chopped.

142 ml carton of double cream.

2 medium baking potatoes about 7 oz each, skin on, sliced as thinly as possible.

Serves 2. 646 calories per serving

Scatter the haddock leek and parsley over the bottom of a shallow microwaveable dish and mix well. Drizzle over half the cream and 5 tablespoons of water. Lay the potato slices on top of the fish and leeks then drizzle over the remaining cream. Season the potatoes with a little salt and plenty of black pepper. Cover the dish with cling film and pierce it a few times. Microwave the pie on full power for 8-10 minutes until everything is bubbling and the potatoes are tender when tested with a knife. Whilst the fish mix is cooking put the grill on high. When the fish is ready remove the cling film and put the dish under the grill until the potatoes are golden. Leave to rest for a minute then serve straight from the dish.



Dog Training

Ramsden Bellhouse D.T.C. had to cancel their annual show at Crays Hill this year due to advice from the local authorities concerning an enforcement order taking place local to the show ground, but we are hoping to be up and running again next year. It was very regretful that we had to cancel at such short notice but safety of all concerned was paramount.

Due to Nina Whitnell no longer taking Tuesday evenings once a month we have had to have a shift around and now only have guest trainers 3 times a month. Monday evenings are club nights and everyone is welcome. Puppies 7.30 - 8pm Beginners & Intermediate 8pm - 9pm and Advanced competitive 9pm - 10pm.

We are very proud of our Trainer Gill Winyard who has won 3 Tickets for the Crufts Championship Obedience Finals, this makes dear 'Sonny'

an Obedience Champion, not an easy task - ***CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU BOTH GILL & SONNY ***

(OB.CH. JONJOSAM DRUNKEN DUNCAN) YOU ARE STARS

There has been many wins amongst our Club members at Open Shows this year and everyone seems to be progressing very well. We now have a match arranged with Gt. Baddow for November so hope to get all your support.

The Barn Dance tickets are available from Rita or Sandie, please make sure you collect yours, you only have to pay for your dinner if you want it at £5.00 (fish & chips or chicken & chips). This is to celebrate our 50th year at Ramsden Bellhouse Dog Training. A raffle will be held for the annual Charity Fund.

Rita Barber - Secretary



Letter from Bert

I would like to say many thanks to all the supporters of my little quizzes and I hope you have enjoyed some gentle, mental exercise.

The summer one on London underground stations was very successful. We sold about 80 entry forms and about half of these were returned. There were two competitors with all correct answers these were Gill Winter and Alan Pegrum. I congratulate both and we put these names in a hat and Gill Winter was drawn as the winner.

For the Christmas bazaar I am doing one on British birds. These will all be species that you will at least have heard of, nothing exotic. I will be increasing the prize pool to £20 so that in the event of several correct entries we will be able to distribute a worthwhile amount between them. I think this is fairer. I thoroughly enjoy preparing these little puzzles and I hope you get much enjoyment from solving them.

I would like to say thank you to Angela for looking after the administrative side. I find this far too much now that my eyesight is so poor.

I would also thank Isabel for doing most of the selling. I wish you all good luck and hope you will all come again. Thank you.

Bert Edwards

Horticultural

I wonder how you all fared in your garden this Summer, we had a poor year on the veg patch although we must have been in the minority when looking at the exhibits in the Autumn Show.

The vegetable section was excellent.

Over the past 6 months we had a variety of speakers, from growing Fuchsias, History of Asters, Gardens tours and Growing Vegetables. We have held 3 shows and a musical evening to raise much needed funds. We are a small group of garden enthusiasts and getting smaller as time goes by, there must be some more garden lovers out there in the Bellhouse, come and join us.

2011 was the last Harvest Supper Isabel will be organising we thank her for the charity funds generated over many years.

Ken has manned the hut on Sunday mornings and kept it well stocked, it will have closed 30th October until the end of February 2012.

We meet on the third Monday of the month at 8.00pm and all are welcome.

Marion Shilham



Ballroom Dancing

Hello again. Dancing is still going very well, and we have just had our Charity Event for "Help the Heros". It's lucky, we as a club have many friends because, as usual nobody from the Village attended or even inquired although it was displayed on the Hall notice board for about four weeks. (Sorry two from the Village did come, but they are friends of mine).

The Village has changed a lot since I moved here forty years ago, when many people joined in lots of things so - all new people to the Village, please give events for "Help the Heros", McMillan Nurses and Air Ambulance your support. You never know you or your family may need their help or support.

On a lighter note, our club has just celebrated a couple of Golden Weddings. And before our Christmas Party we still have a 50th, 65th and 70th birthday to celebrate. If you like ballroom dancing, give me ring, Joan 710260. You don't have to be good, its more a social occasion. It is far from a dance school.

May we wish you a very happy Christmas and New Year.

Joan Tellkman

Personal Page

Congratulations to

Linda and Derek Swan, of Church Road, Ramsden Bellhouse, announce the wedding of their son Alex, to Lauren Shelbourne of Westcliff-on-Sea on 20th May 2011.

Rusi and Angela Hodivala of Ramsden Park Road, on the marriage of their son Saam to Charlotte Simmonds of Salisbury, Wiltshire on 30th July at Langton's Register Office, Hornchurch followed by a reception at Ramsden Park.

In Memory of:

Edith Catchpole who died earlier this year. She lived in "Northcroft" Church Road for more than 50 years and had been very active in supporting Village Events. In the early years of the Dog Training Club, which her late husband Bob had founded, she was particularly active and involved. She was a dinner lady at both Crays Hill School and Billericay School. She was a trained hairdresser, and many of the older ladies in the village will have benefited from her hairdressing skills. Her quiet presence and smiling face is sorely missed by her friends. Our sympathies go out to the family.



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Lavender is for lovers true
Which evermore be fain,
Desiring always for to have
Some pleasure for their pain;
And when that they obtained have
The love that they require,
Then have they all their perfect joy,
And quenched is the fire.

Rosemary is for remembrance
Between us day and night;
Wishing that I might always have
You present in my sight.
And when I cannot have
As I have said before,
Then Cupid with his deadly dart
Doth wound my heart full sore.

Sage is for sustenance
That should man's life sustain;
For I do still lie languishing
Continually in pain,
And shall do so still until I die
Except thou favour' show:
My pain and all my grievous smart
Full well you do it know.

Marigolds is for marriage,
that would our minds suffice,
Lest that suspicion of us twain
By any means should rise,
As for my part, I do not care,
Myself I will still use,
That all the women in the world
For you I will refuse.

Thyme is to try me,
As each be tried must,
Letting you know while life doth last
I will not be unjust.
And if I should, I would to God
To hell my soul should bear,
And else also that Belzebub
With teeth he should me tear.

Roses is to rule me
With reason as you will,
For to be still obedient
your mind for to fulfil;
And thereto will not disagree
In nothing that you say,
But will content your mind truly
in all things that I may.

Carnations is for graciousness,
Mark that now by the way,
Have no regard to flatterers
Nor pass not what they say.
For they will come with lying tales
Your ears for to fulfil,
In any case do not consent
Nothing unto their will.

Cowslips is for counsel,
For secrets us between
That none but you and I alone
Should know the thing we mean!
And if you will this wisely do
As I think to be best,
Then have you surely won the field
and set my heart at rest.

*I pray you keep this nosegay well, and set by it some store
And thus farewell! The gods thee guide, both now and evermore!
Not as the common sort do use, to set it in your breast
That when the smell is gone away on ground he takes his rest.*



COPY FOR SUMMER ISSUE

Thanks to everyone who sent their copy by email.
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	N5	N5 = Not Saturdays				
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Wickford, Rail Station	0817	0917	1117	1317	1637	
RAMSDEN HEATH, White Horse	0827	0927	1127	1327	1647	
RAMSDEN BELLHOUSE, Globe Road	0830	0930	1130	1330	1650	
CRAYS HILL, Shepherd & Dog	0834	0934	1134	1334	1654	
Festival Leisure Park	....	0944	1144	1344	1704
Basildon, Bus Station	0848	0951	1151	1351	1711	
Basildon Hospital	0855	0955	1155	1355	1716	
					NS	
Basildon Hospital		0957	1157	1357	1718	
Basildon, Bus Station		1002	1202	1402	1724	
Festival Leisure Park		1009	1209	1409	1731	
CRAYS HILL, Shepherd & Dog		1019	1219	1419	1741	
RAMSDEN BELLHOUSE, Globe Road		1023	1223	1423	1745	
RAMSDEN HEATH, White Horse		1026	1226	1426	1748	
Wickford, Rail Station		1036	1236	1436	1758	
South Woodham Ferrers, A&A		1052	1252	1452	1813	

WICKFORD - RAMSDEN HEATH - CHELMSFORD

Mondays to Saturdays	* NS * NS * S	Regal Busesway 15									
Wickford, Rail Station	0645	0735	0738	0855	1055	1255	1455	1655	1855		
RAMSDEN HEATH, White Horse	0655	0745	0749	0905	1105	1305	1505	1705	1905		
Galleyswood, The Eagle	0719	0810	0813	0915	1115	1315	1515	1715	1915		
Chelemsford, Bus Station	0734	0827	0826	0929	1129	1329	1529	1729	1927		
	NS	S			*		*	*	* NS		
Chelemsford, Bus Station	....	....	0855	1055	1255	1455	1555	1655	1755	1855	1940
Galleyswood, The Eagle	....	....	0908	1108	1308	1508	1608	1708	1808	1907	1952
RAMSDEN HEATH, White Horse	0723	0726	0919	1119	1319	1519	1633	1719	1833	1932	2017
Wickford, Rail Station	0733	0736	0929	1129	1329	1529	1640	1729	1841	1940	2025

NS = Not Saturdays

* = Operates via South and West Hanningfield as Service 15A

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Mondays to Fridays

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Village Events

NOVEMBER

Saturday 5th	St Mary's Autumn Fair	11.00am - 2.30pm	Village Hall
Saturday 12th	Whist Drive	7.30pm	Village Hall
Sunday 13th	Remembrance Service	10.45am	Village Hall
Saturday 19th	Quiz details 01268 710757	7.30pm	Village Hall

DECEMBER

Saturday 10th	Christmas Bazaar	12 noon - 4.00pm	Village Hall
Saturday 10th	Whist Drive	7.30pm	Village Hall
Sunday 18th	Carols by Candlelight	4.00pm	Baptist Church
Thursday 22nd	Carol Service	7.30pm	St Mary's Church
Saturday 24th	Midnight Communion	11.30pm	St Mary's Church

JANUARY 2012

Saturday 7th	Whist Drive	7.30pm	Village Hall
Saturday 28th	Crunch	9.00am - Midday	Village Hall
Sunday 29th	Village Hall AGM	3.00pm	Village Hall

FEBRUARY

Saturday 11th	Crunch	9.00am - MIDDAY	Village Hall
Saturday 11th	Whist Drive	7.30pm	Village Hall
Saturday 25th	History of Ramsden	2.00 -5.00pm	Village Hall
Sunday 26th	History of Ramsden	11.00am -5.00pm	Village Hall

MARCH

Friday 2nd	Women's World Day of Prayer	10.30am	Baptist Church
Saturday 10th	Whist Drive	7.30pm	Village Hall
Tuesday 13th	Daffodil Day 01268 710428	10.30am - 5.00pm	Bramhill Orchard Ave
Saturday 24th	Crunch	9.00am - Midday	Village Hall

APRIL

Friday 6th	Good Friday Service	10.30am	Baptist Church
Saturday 14th	Whist Drive	7.30pm	Village Hall
Sunday 22nd	St George's Day Breakfast	9.00am - Midday	Village Hall

Village Directory

Police	Wickford Police Station	561312
	Basildon Police Station	532212
Village Hall	Chairman - Clive Jeffree	710559
	Booking Secretary - Vivienne Fisher	07772 630513
		01268 531441
	Secretary - Abby Short	01268 711675
Magazine	Treasurer - Derek Swan	710478
	Editor - Isabel Johnson	710428
	Advertising - Isabel Johnson	710428
Badminton	Fridays 8pm - 11pm - Tanzy Bailey	01277 625555
Dog Training	Monday (except 3rd in month)	
	7.15pm - 10pm - Rita Barber	01702 231189
St Mary's Church	Church Wardens - Beryl Clements	01245 601298
	- Len Ferris	710165
Horticultural	3rd Monday in the month except July, August and December - Joan Lewis	710893
Ladies Medau	Thursday 8pm - Veronica Greenwood	01702 559914
Cubs	Wed 5.45pm - 7.15pm - Janet Jeffree	710559
Scouts	Wed 7.30pm - 9.30pm except 2nd Wed in month	
	- Clive Jeffree	710559
Baptist Church	Roger Newton	01268 710259
Bowls	Mon 7.30pm	
	Wed 10am	
	Fri 1.30pm - Kay Debenham	710765
Dancing Club	Every Sunday 7.30pm - 10.30pm	
	General Dancing - Joan Telkman	710260
Whist Drive	Derek Jackson (see Village Events)	710613
Line Dancing	Every Monday 2.00pm - 3.00pm Ken Dobson	710771
Essex County Library Mobile Van	Fortnightly Wednesday 4.20pm - 4.35pm	
	after July 4th Fortnightly Tuesday 3.30pm - 4.00pm	
Bellhouse Preschool Website	Mon to Fri 9.30am -	07881 448686
	www.ramsdenbellhouse.info	

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