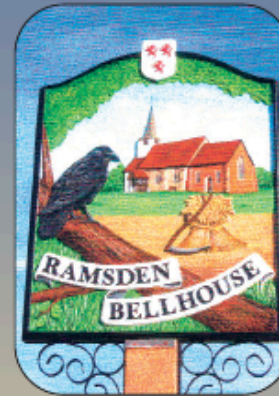


***“There are no strangers  
in here, just friends  
you have’nt met . . .”***

**Roald Dahl**



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# **RAMSDEN BELLHOUSE**

**Village Magazine  
Winter 2019**



*Winter in the Countryside*



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## A Word from the Editor

There is a feel of Autumn in the air today, so it must be time to write the Editorial to the Winter 2019 magazine. What a weird summer we have had weatherwise! - perhaps a warning of the much predicted climate change. With this in mind, I ask, for future generations, that once more, we remember that trees are purifying our air, fertilising our land, and giving us shade from the sun. Please think of PLANTING them, not cutting them down. Leave them to do their job and at the same time bring beauty to our Village.

I'm pleased to say that the restrictions put on parking in St Mary's car park have at least stopped all the fast food wrappers, bottles and those silver drug things from littering the church yard. Well done to Audrey Pegrum for a long uphill fight for this.

On another matter entirely, I have received a verbal complaint regarding the "tongue in cheek" observations on page 9 of the last magazine. Likewise I have also received verbal approvals of the same observations. Whilst I apologise to anyone who found this offensive I have asked the complainants to send written complaints to ME, and I promise to publish them. I have received none.

Whilst views in this magazine may not necessarily be mine I am responsible for what is published, not my typesetter and not my printer. Complaints therefore should NOT be sent to them. My telephone number is at the back of the magazine. I collect the contents of the magazine, edit them accordingly, decide how, and where they are arranged, and after many hours of cutting and pasting pass the final result to my typesetter and hence to be printed. The end product is, as I sent it. I am prepared, even pleased, to receive comments, both positive and negative, but do not bother to point spelling or punctuation errors! (Unless you want to take over the proof reading!).

And after that somewhat forceful statement - may I wish all our readers a Happy Christmas, without any wicked editors upsetting them, and as usual thanks to all those connected with the production, publication and delivery of this magazine, as well as the advertisers. Copy for the next issue by March 20th 2020, either to me or preferably to [bryan.diggory@sky.com](mailto:bryan.diggory@sky.com).

Isabel Johnson



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## Chairmans Report

As some of you know I now have a dog called RED, he is a Fox Red Lab borne 23rd May last year. I take him for a long walk every day or should I say he takes me. During this hot weather I usually go to the Wick Country Park as it has a large lake and Red does enjoy swimming to cool off. During these walks I meet a new circle of friends who I only know by their dogs names. I also go to our dog training club on a Monday night where he shows off how bright he is (some say of the two of us he is the brightest, on comment) still the exercise does us both some good.

At the Village Hall the bookings are going well and keeping our heads above water, the boundary dispute is coming to an end soon just leaving a few jobs left to finish off.

Lastly I wish both Tony and Audrey a speedy recovery from their hip operations and look forward to a pain free future.

C Jeffree,  
Chairman RBVH  
chairman@ramsdensbellhouse.info



## Dancing

Hello once again we are now in Autumn but on entering a certain garden centre during the late summer Bank Holiday, I thought it was Christmas.

In May we celebrated a members' coming of age with a buffet dance, another member celebrated an 0 birthday and we enjoyed our dancing accompanied by cake and fizz.

The Dance Section held our version of a Tea Dance on the 30th June in aid of the village charity and together with a raffle and a competition we raised a considerable sum.

It has been quiet over the holiday period but we look forward to planning our winter activities with our Xmas dinner and other activities.

The Dance Section extends the compliments of the coming season to all readers.

Barry Gardiner

## Fun Whist

I am writing this for the first time and my main aim is to get more people to join in our Saturday night Fun Whist which I run every second Saturday of the month. Our attendance varies between sixteen and twenty four and with only two people coming from our village, the rest are from Pitsea, Thurrock, Noak Bridge, Chelmsford, Wickford, Baddow, Ramsden Heath, and mostly from Billericay. I'm sure local people play cards and I would like to see them come along and join us.

The entrance fee is only £3 and for that we have tea and coffee with biscuit at the interval plus at least two raffle prizes, then its a prize for the highest man plus woman and also a small booby prize for the lowest score man and woman.

You don't need a partner as we can pair up on the night. It's a very friendly evening so why not come along. Hope to see you soon.

Roy Richards



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## **Parish Council**

### **Local Plan**

In the Summer issue of this magazine we advised (on information received) that it was expected that the examination of the Local Plan by the Government Inspector would take place in September 2019. At the time of going to press we understand this process will take considerably longer due to issues outside Ramsden Bellhouse which has impacted on the time scale. Updates with regard to its progression will be provided at Parish Councils meetings and on the PC website and notice boards as information become available from Basildon Council.

### **Neighbourhood Plan**

Further to the information that was communicated in the Summer 2019 issue and at successive Parish Council meetings the process of creating the Neighbourhood Plan has continued. Part of this process was to engage with residents by providing a questionnaire and obtaining feedback including 'How you would like to see Ramsden Bellhouse evolve in the future'?

Two questionnaires were delivered by hand to each household (where a letter box was accessible) and further copies were made available in the village shop and at the village hall. Kish and Jay also kindly agreed to accommodate the collection box in the shop for returns.

Mindful that many residents were away during the Summer months and a number of residents have still not completed and returned their questionnaire, it has been agreed to extend the closing date to the 31st October.

Whilst this provides the PC with less time to collate the results it is important that we have feedback from as many residents as possible. No comment now from you could make a significant difference in the future to each and every one of us living in the village. If you are one of the residents that has misplaced their copy of the Residents Questionnaire, further copies are available for you to collect from the village shop.

In addition to the questionnaire for the residents, a Non Resident version has also been provided to the members of the clubs that use and enjoy the facilities the halls provide, who are not residents.

Signs will be put outside the Shop and Village Hall as an additional reminder to return the Questionnaire within the requested timescale.

On completion of this part of the process, the feedback obtained from the questionnaires will be shared at meetings to be arranged in the village hall, it is important that you attend these meetings in order you can both

receive and provide your thoughts as part of the engagement process. Your valued contribution will assist in creating and completing the vision for the Ramsden Bellhouse Neighbourhood Plan.

### **Broadband**

Over the last four years since the concept of Superfast Essex Broadband was first communicated there have been a number of highs and lows as the installation has been rolled out across Essex.

As many of you may now be aware either from the note posted on the Notice Board, or may have observed, a New Fibre Cabinet has been installed in Church Road. According to the information provided by Openreach, it should be possible to obtain high speed broadband from October 2019 onwards. Once it is available your current Service Broadband Provider will contact you to see if you wish to upgrade, if you have not already contacted them!

Any further information will be published on the PC Notice Board and W. Site.

### **Other Issues**

#### ***Parking on Pavements***

Since the request in the last issue to encourage residents that are having building work done on their properties, the number of complaints relating to vehicles blocking pavements has reduced. Whilst there is still some parking on pavements at least adequate space is being provided in order residents are able to pass, (including wheelchair users and push chairs) and residents are not forced to walk in the road. A better option than enforcement which can be disruptive and expensive for both builders and residents alike.

#### ***Street Lighting***

With winter on the way the PC is particularly concerned regarding the Power Company's inability to resolve and restore power to the lamp posts located at the Southern end of Church Road, despite numerous complaints by both the PC and many residents over a long time period.

A robust and final communication is being sent prior to a request for a meeting with senior managers in order that this can be resolved once and for all, before a serious accident takes place.

Richard Wellborne  
Chairman Ramsden Bellhouse Parish Council



## Letter to the Editor

Dear Villagers

When our Summer magazine was already at the printers, I learned that somebody said 'There was no give and take in the Village' due to the fact that St Mary's Church and the Village Hall had to put up notices informing people who were illegally parked in their private car parks that their cars/vans would be towed away and they would have to pay to get them out of the pound. I just wanted to let you know why we had to take this action.

**First the Church** - so many vans/cars were parking in the private car park that people could not park to tend their loved ones graves. Funeral Directors from Billericay and Wickford had to drive to the church before a funeral to check if they could get into the car park. When we had weddings we had to go around to find out the vehicle owners and get them to move their vehicles. Most people know that a church has services on a Sunday, but that didn't stop vehicles parking and in the winter months, some of the congregation had to park on the grass resulting in their cars getting stuck and very muddy shoes. Perhaps the person making the remark would have liked somebody from the congregation just parking on their private drive, without permission and blocking in their car.

**Now the Village Hall** - we have many people who hire the Village Hall regularly and at various times of the day who come a distance and use their cars. We also hire it out for parties. If you are hiring you want somewhere to park your guest's cars and we must provide that. The fact that you see an empty car park does not mean that it will not be used at some time during the day. People have also been parking in the Disabled parking bays which is not acceptable, especially if you are disabled.

Both the Church and the Village Hall have to maintain their car parks without any grants. However, if you are holding a function at your house and need parking for a Saturday evening, please contact me (710757) and if we have not got anything on, I will arrange parking at either venue for a donation.

I hope this letter explains why we had to take this action and it is not a question of no give and take!

*Yours sincerely,*

*Audrey Pegrum MBE, Booking Secretary Village Hall  
Regular Worshipper at St Mary's, Member of Parochial Church Council*



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## One Foot in the Grave

When we are growing up we like to think that we can follow a career path, some kids at school are good at sports and go down that route, but that was rare, for most of us it was already mapped out, my dad was a builder, his whole family were builders, plasterers. Like a lot of lads we had to work from the age of 12 onwards, when ever there was a weekend or school holidays. It was hard work in those days, no mixers all knocked up by hand. The Building industry did not always attract the best in society and most prisons thought that rehabilitating offenders by learning them worth while trade in the construction industry was a good idea. For some it worked but others it gave them opportunities to broaden their real trade. My dad worked 7 days a week most weeks so I had to fill in for a labourer, on the plus side I was a competent plasterer by 15.

I was never very good at school work, I wasn't stupid, it just never interested me, I also had a severe stutter that never really left me until I was in my fifties. I used to dread English literature as the teacher would always make me stand up and read a paragraph from Shakespeare or whoever was on the menu. He really thought he was helping me. Having a handicap is not always a bad thing, it can make you more determined. I excelled at art and much of the work I did was exhibited nationally. In those early days I was leaning towards being a rocker and attending the art school at Southend, I just could not see myself fitting in with all those hippies, this was the flower power period.

I loved fishing so I thought I would go on a trawler, I went to the Herring Fishery Score college at Lowestoft, most of the pupils were from fishing families. I passed with flying colours, somehow for me applied mathematics became easy, navigation and network were mathematical formulas that some lads really never got to grips with. After spending some time at Lowestoft, Grimsby and Hull on arctic trawlers, I ended up at Southend working for the Gilson Bros, which was mostly a Salvation

Army crewed fleet. I loved working from Southend with great people, but fishing was in decline then and I could not see a future in the industry. One of the skippers was the RNLI Coxswain and asked me if I would like to be in the crew, I was 19 then but really a man after the time spent on North Sea and Arctic trawlers. I went for an interview but the stuttering was a real issue, but the RNLI inspector felt that they could not afford for me not to be in the crew. Many of the inshore lifeboat crews are from yachting backgrounds and shore based jobs, very committed crews but

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lack the professional experience. When things get rough it does sort out the men from the boys. Southend is the busiest station in the country. The crews work a weekend rota. The RNLI decided to make me up to Coxswain so I would not have to use the radio. The inshore Lifeboat was a 'D' Class Zodiac, later we had Atlantic 21 inflatables.

Everything was working out fine, then I get my first big call, I was 19 my crew was 17 and we get the call that a steamer had collided and run down an Angling party on a fishing trip, we get to the casualty and pick up survivors, the skipper had jumped in to save his son and both were lost, the stern of the boat was still afloat but sank as we got there. The seriousness of the

rescue meant we had to start a full search, that meant organising a full air sea rescue search with Helicopters, aircraft from 'Poppys' farm in Langdon Hills and other craft. I could not relay the instructions to the Coastguard through the novice crew so I had to give instruction to the Coastguard, planes and helicopter. I organised the whole search until the Main Lifeboat was in service. I was the radio for over an hour and never stuttered once.

I went on to serve in the service for many years and carried out many rescues, I was the only crew member that lived in Basildon. I won an award that was presented by Raymond Baxter of Tomorrows World. Some of the rescues were serious but nobody ever thought that we would need counselling. We were told at the beginning of the training that you would see upsetting sights but it was left to you how you dealt with it... I left the sea altogether to focus on Building and have lived in Ramsden Bellhouse for these past 38 years. One day I might get a boat and do a bit of trawling, there is something calming about working on the water which clearly I have missed all these years, at 71 I may be running out of years.

Dennis Webb



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## **Wine Braised Beef With Herb Dumplings**

### **Ingredients:**

3 tablespoons of oil  
1kg/2lb 4oz diced braising  
steak or venison  
2 onions finely chopped  
25g/1oz plain flour  
300ml/1/2 pint of red wine  
500ml/18fl oz double strength  
beef stock  
2 tablespoons of tomato purée  
300g/11oz of shallots peeled  
300g/11oz carrots peeled and sliced  
250g pack of large closed cup mushrooms, quartered  
A generous thyme sprig

Heat oil in heavy based flame proof casserole and fry the meat in batches to brown.

Remove meat from pan then stir in the onions with the remaining oil and fry stirring often until coloured. Stir in the flour, quickly pour in the wine and stock, add tomato purée and stir continuously until thickened.

Return the meat to the pan with the shallots, carrots, mushrooms and thyme sprig. Season then cover and leave to gently simmer for 1 hour until the meat is tender.

### **DUMPLINGS**

Heat oven to 200c/180c fan/gas 6. Put bread in food processor and pulse to crumbs. Add flour, baking powder, butter, herbs and salt. Pulse again to incorporate butter. Finally add the eggs and pulse to make a soft dough. Tip onto a work surface, cut into 8 and shape into rough balls. Take thyme sprigs from the meat then add the dumplings to the meat. Cover and bake for 20 minutes or until dumplings are puffed up and set.

Serves 6 (716 Kcals per portion)

Joan Wright

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Contact her with requests for Baptisms, Marriages, and Funerals etc.

**Churchwarden:** Mrs. Beryl Clements, 01245 601298, email: [randbclements@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:randbclements@blueyonder.co.uk)

**Services:**

1st Sunday: Evening Prayer, 6.30pm Summer, 3.00pm Winter when the clocks go back.

2nd Sunday: Holy Communion, 9.30pm.

3rd Sunday: Holy Communion, 6.30pm Summer, 3.00pm Winter.

4th Sunday: Family Service, 10.30am.

5th Sunday: Benefice Holy Communion rotating between St. Mary's, St. Margaret's, Downham, and St. Peter's, South Hanningfield, usually at 10.00am.

We invite everybody to join us at our Sunday services as above. If you are unfamiliar with church services, try for a start the Family Service on the 4th Sunday of each month at 10.30am. - a short 40 minute service for all ages with tea, coffee, soft drinks and biscuits afterwards.

We continue to enjoy fellowship with our friends at the Baptist Church. We had a joint service with them in July and they came to us for our Harvest Service in October. Our next joint service will be the Remembrance Sunday Service in the Village Hall on 10th November at 10.45am with the Cubs and Scouts in attendance.

Our fund raising during the summer went very well. Our Strawberry Cream Tea held in the Village Hall was a very happy time and was well supported. This raised £883 which was the highest amount ever. This has now been booked for next year on Saturday 13th June. We held four Coffee Mornings between April and July to raise funds for the flowers at the Flower Festival and raised just over £344. This year we changed the date of the Flower Festival from the August Bank Holiday weekend as so many people go away or out and we held it on the weekend of 20th July. The weekend started badly as the marquees and gazebos were being erected on the Friday in rain and high winds and the gazebos were blown over. We are indebted to Clive Jeffree, Chairman of Ramsden Bellhouse Village Hall for coming to our rescue and allowing us to borrow one of their large party tents which he helped to erect. Our thanks go to all who came on the Friday to help erect the marquees and gazebos in very

difficult conditions. On Saturday the weather was much kinder, although still windy. The Sid Bolan Big Band Concert at 5.00pm took place in beautiful sunshine and perhaps numbers were down due to the bad weather the previous day. Nevertheless we raised £785. We had many comments from the audience saying how much they enjoyed the evening and the two vocalists who were excellent. The Band have been booked for next year - Saturday 18th July at 5.00pm.

Our theme this year for the Flower Festival was 'Countries' and the Flower Arrangers certainly did us proud. The church looked lovely. Despite flyers going to every house in the village, we had a steady stream of visitors over the weekend, but mainly only the long-standing residents of the village. How do we get the new residents to come along? A lot of hard work goes into putting on the Flower Festival and we are very thankful for the efforts of people living outside the village in running this event, and our heartfelt thanks go to the Flower Arrangers, cakes and jam makers, other helpers and especially to Beryl, our Churchwarden, who works so hard during the weeks leading up to the weekend and spent hours after the event sorting everything out. Our ploughman's lunches and other refreshments which Beryl oversees were excellent. Our Songs of Praise service which took place in the open air on the Sunday at 4.00pm was poorly attended compared to previous years which was a great shame as Jean and Suzy had put together a nice service. Together with the Concert we raised £3,294.80. Thank you to all who came along and supported us.

We are delighted that the 'Men in Harmony' have asked to come back to raise funds for our church and at the time of writing we are looking forward to the concert on Saturday 21st September. A report will be given in the next magazine.

Our next project at the church is the repair of the steeple which will cost in the region of £11,000 so please support our fund raising.

On 8th November we will be holding a Beetle Drive in the Village Hall in aid of the village charity 'Hearing Help Essex'. Our Carol Service will be on Thursday 19th December at 7.30pm followed by mince pies, coffee and tea.

Audrey Pegrum MBE

**Happy Christmas to all our readers**



## Social Report

### Line Dancing

Every Monday at 2.30 pm (except Bank Holidays) the ladies join our teachers Jean and Lyn for a very enjoyable hour, line dancing to old favourites and new. We will also welcome new members and for only £2.00 it is a very pleasant way to spend an hour.

### St. George's Day Breakfast 28th April 2019

As promised I have to report that the Breakfast which took place on the 28th April was once again a great success. Everyone involved worked very hard to make it so, committee members, section members and residents in the village who kindly came to our aid. A full English breakfast was served by the 'delightful' waiters, having been cooked in the old hall by 'hot' cooks who catered for 180 diners in three hours (our record has been 250). Profit made was £725.10 which will go towards the upkeep of the village hall, which many of you will be aware is a Registered Charity. Thank you for your support and look forward to seeing you all again next year.

### Music Festival 22nd June 2019

The Music Festival took place on the 22nd June on a sunny afternoon with everyone arriving ready to enjoy an afternoon and evening of fun and good music. The gates opened at 2.30 pm and the first performer Gemma Richardson 'Miss Vintage Voice' gave a powerful performance covering soul, blues and jazz. Next at 5.30 pm. Redriffe a fun soft rock band with hits from the 60/70's. Scot Borley next appeared as Robbie Williams tribute act who had the crowd going with his rendition of Robbie's hits. At 9.30 pm. the last act appeared with Andre Dennison on sax accompanied by Romina Johnson and had the revellers on their feet. Our resident DJ Seany B wrapped up the evening with his disco and laser show. Hot Temptations provided burger, hot dogs, chip etc. and there were other fun stalls, face painting etc for the children. The marquees provided cover and seating for those who didn't want to picnic on the grass, quiet dogs welcome. A profit was made of well over £1,000 which will go to the upkeep of the village hall. Thank you for supporting our event, the ticket price was £15.00 this year and I am sure you will agree it was good value. Lastly thank you to Chris for his amazing stage and Abby for introducing the four acts.

Ann Wellborne, Social Secretary

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## Bellhouse Preschool Summer Term

We had a lovely summer term in preschool, we had sports day that was great, we had paddling pools out and many water fights we played with our mud kitchen and had lots of fun in the sunshine. As our term comes to an end we get ready to say goodbye to our leavers who are off to big school, but this year Ofsted had other ideas they came for their 3 yearly visit the last week of term !! So leavers celebrations went on hold for the day while we showed Ofsted what we are good at, it was a good day even when one little girl argued that the picture on the inspectors lanyard couldn't be the inspector because "in the picture you have no lines on your face, but today you have!"

We did get a lovely report praising us on how well the staff interact with the children and how much teaching the children get whilst the staff keep it fun, a lot of hard work goes behind the scenes of running a preschool, but it's all worth it when you get recognised for being a good team who do work really hard and care for all the children at our preschool.

Ann Marie



## Dog Training

Some of our members have done very well at shows this year, congratulations are due especially to Jayne who has gained more than one 1st. Place, well done.

Unfortunately we had to cancel our own show this year as the owner sold the land for building, we were all very disappointed as land for shows is very hard to find.

We decided to do the the good Citizen Dog Scheme this year and Jayne and Kerry trained us for this and all 8 members who took the test passed the Bronze certificate namely Clive, Vanessa, Ilene, Anne, Valerie Amy, Kelly and Barbara, well done everyone. We are hoping to do the silver test next year.

We have a training day in November.

The show season is nearly over now so all that remains is to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a Happy and successful New Year.

Valerie Dean, Vice Chairman



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# Village Events throughout the year



St George's Breakfast



Bowls help at St George's Breakfast



St George's Breakfast



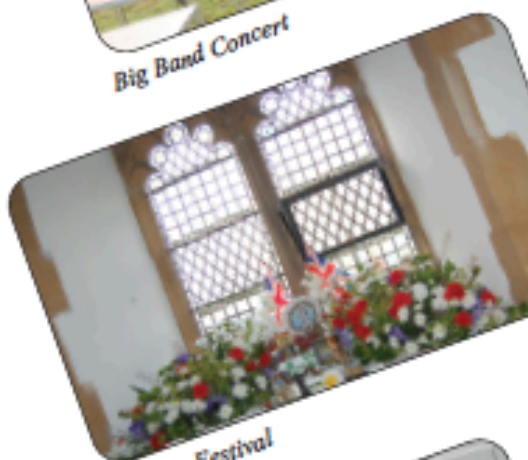
Music Festival



Big Band Concert



Big Band Concert



Flower Festival



Flower Festival



Strawberry Tea



Helpers at Strawberry Tea



Editor meets Radio Presenter Sadie Nine at Alzheimer's Sponsored Walk



Editor finishing the walk





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## Ramsden Bellhouse Website

[www.ramsdenbellhouse.info](http://www.ramsdenbellhouse.info)

Photos of 2019 events, such as St. George's Day Breakfast, Strawberry Tea, Horticultural Shows, Flower Festival and the Music Festival are now available to view on the website.

If you really want to see at a glance what is going on in Ramsden Bellhouse, then take a look at the Ramsden Bellhouse website, where you will find an easy to use and most comprehensive guide of what is going on at the Village Hall as well as around the village.

You will find details of the various activities and clubs held in the Village Hall, local businesses as well as a history of the village, the Church and surrounding areas. The Village Magazine is available to view in pdf form, going back to 2010.

There is also a link to the Parish Council website, Ramsden Pre-School, the Baptist Church, as well as the National Archives and UK Census Returns websites.

The website is regularly updated and gives a most comprehensive



## Grahame Farley

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*References Available*



guide to what is happening in Ramsden Bellhouse, together with photos of the various events throughout the years.

If you would like to receive village newsletters and details of up and coming events, you can register your name and email address, and you will be added to our mailing list and receive advance notice of village activities and local news.

Email: [mailing@ramsdenbellhouse.info](mailto:mailing@ramsdenbellhouse.info) with your name and the email address you wish to register, placing Register in the subject line.

The website now has a Facebook page, which highlights coming events at the Village Hall. Go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and search for Ramsden Bellhouse Village Hall.

Barbara Stanton



### Scouts Report

Where has the summer gone? It only seems a short while ago that we broke up in July following the annual Scout Group BBQ. Lots of burgers and sausages, followed by a mass game of rounders until the sun went down.

During the spring and summer terms the scouts took part in many activities. They made peppermint creams for Mother's Day and chocolate rice crispy and cornflake cakes. Branded key fobs for Father's Day, made siege catapults (very popular), bottle boats (see out nights below), battery operated electric dream cars, branded wooden woggles, took part in a forum about bullying and a road testing exercise on how to make driving more efficient. There was a good opportunity to display their work at the AGM held 22nd May. On 3rd July the theme was American Independence Day when the scouts took part in a USA quiz and enjoyed hotdogs cooked over an open fire.

For the summer break the scouts were set a challenge, agreed by the leaders, towards the Personal Challenge Badge. The leaders also set them a second challenge. When these have been completed the badges will be awarded in the coming weeks.

Team challenge games are always popular and the two patrols Lions and Tigers had a number of rounders matches and newspaper hockey games.

Out nights included a visit to Partyman World in Basildon and

canoeing at Barleylands, where the bottle boats were tested. They worked out well and could easily hold two scouts or a leader. Each boat was made out of around 100 2litre plastic bottles.

Scouts restarted on 11th September with camp preparations for the camp at Belchamps Scout Campsite near Hockley, 13th - 15th September. The theme of the camp was work towards the Outdoor Challenge Badge: setting up a safe camp, personal and camp hygiene, cooking on an open fire, wide games, camp fire sketches, what accidents and incidents can happen at camp and much more. They also did a hike through Hockley Woods, archery and outdoor climbing.

The weather was perfect, dry warm and sunny during the days, cooler over the two nights and a full moon. Campfires were set each evening with toasting of marshmallows, scotch pancakes and bread, along with some interesting entertainment from the scouts!

Our next outing will be a Night Hike and sleepover in November.



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Our numbers fluctuate and we currently have 14 scouts, with plenty of room for new recruits. We meet on Wednesday evenings during term time at Ramsden Bellhouse Village Hall from 7.30 to 9.30 and the age range is from 10½ to 14½. New recruits are always welcome and for further information please call Chris on 01277 652337 or 07904 225200.

Also please see our website:  
<http://www.1stramsdendownhamscouts.org.uk>

Chris Maker, Scout Leader



### Personal Page

*Congratulations to:*

**Ken Dobson and the late Maggie Dobson** of Church Road on the birth of their granddaughter **Megan Rose Bateup**, whose parents are **Jacqueline and David**, on 27th May 2019.

**Ann & Dick Wellborne** of Church Road celebrate 50 years of marriage in October. (great train robbers didn't get that long!!)

*In Memory of:*

**Sheena Delaney** who died in September. She lived for many years in Orchard Avenue, before leaving the Village. Recently she returned to work in Hemmings Too. Our thoughts go out to her family.

**Jan (née Osang)** who died in September. One time resident of Glebe Road where she and her husband Philip brought up their three sons. After early widowhood, she left the Village and later remarried. Our thoughts go out to her family.

*Due to the Data Protection Act I cannot print Personal Information unless it is sent personally and signed to the Editor or to [bryan.diggory@sky.com](mailto:bryan.diggory@sky.com).*

### A Thought

The old have experience of being young and old, but the young have only experience of being young and have no idea what it feels like to be old.

Thanks to all the generous people who sponsored me on my walk for Alzheimers Research at a damp Highlands Park, and Special Thanks to "**Hemmings Too**" and the "**Fox and Hounds**" who displayed sponsor forms. Total I raised with your help is at present roughly £1660.

Isabel Johnson



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## History of Ramsden Exhibition 2020

A reminder that the next exhibition will be held over the last weekend of February as usual - Saturday 22nd (1pm - 5pm) and Sunday 23rd (11am - 5pm) in the Village Hall.

For those readers that have not yet visited, this is an annual historical exhibition of Ramsden Bellhouse and the surrounding area, which includes Ramsden Heath, Ramsden Crays, Downham and Wickford. It charts the passage of time from before the beginning of the 20th century up to the present day in pictures, newspaper articles, documents and maps on all manner of events that have happened to the local community.

It is the culmination of a life-long project of local resident Isabel Johnson, who has been exhibiting her collection for over 25 years, but announced that the 2017 event would, sadly, be her last. On hearing this, a small team of enthusiasts took it over with Isabel's blessing with the intention of taking it into the future. Frank Fisher, another resident of the village, donated his war-time and map collections, which he also used to exhibit with Isabel, and is a valuable part of the archive.

Isabel and Frank still attend the events to give us the benefit of their extensive knowledge and advice gained from many years experience, and we hope that they will be able to continue helping us.

Most of Isabel's collection has been digitally copied and catalogued, which gives us a computer-based searchable system which enhances, but not replaces, the original format which gives the visitor the opportunity to sit and browse through the 27 volumes that comprise most of the collection.

We are continuing to collect new material, and aim to present this at future exhibitions so there will be something new to see. If you have anything of historical value that you would be prepared to donate, or allow us to copy, then please email us at [history@ramsdensbellhouse.info](mailto:history@ramsdensbellhouse.info).

At the next exhibition, representatives of the Wickford Community Archive will be setting up a section, and will be displaying some of their substantial collection.

As usual, there will be a selection of home-made refreshments to enjoy, and the opportunity to sit and chat.

Please do come along and support us - you will be very welcome, and you should find something of interest!

History of Ramsden Archive Team

## Welcome Back

Lucy now lived in the Kentish countryside with Ron and June. When her Father and Grandmother had both passed away suddenly in the same week, her Aunt and Uncle had agreed to bring her up. Lucy who was eleven had lived in the East End of London and found her new surroundings hard to get used to. She missed her friends and felt isolated and lonely.

Ron and June were far from rich but lived a comfortable life, he was the school caretaker and she was a dinner lady.

They didn't like to see their new charge looking miserable so they suggested a visit to the local animal rescue centre to get Lucy a dog. This would be a companion for her and she could take it out for walks across the common. The following Saturday Ron's faithful old car with its three passengers headed into town to find the animal rescue centre.

There were many dogs to choose from all rushing to the doors of their pens to meet Lucy, with their tails wagging and tongues hanging out. They all so wanted to leave these surroundings and have a new home of their own. Finally after much deliberation Lucy made up her mind and chose a Wire Haired Terrier. He was so excited that he wanted to jump up and lick her face. Lucy would call him Patch as he had a white area over his left eye.

Things now got much better for Lucy, every evening after school she would get the dogs lead down from the back of the kitchen door. Patch would wag his tail and head for the garden gate. The happy pair turned left, walked down the lane and on to the common. The birds flew up and the squirrels would throw nuts down from the trees. At the weekends Lucy and Patch would walk further and go into the wood that bordered the common. She found more to see and would gather the different wild flowers that grew under the trees. Sometimes she would see a small group of Fallow Deer nibbling the fresh shoots of grass growing in the clearing. A big Red Fox would often cross their path as he returned to his den after finding his latest meal.

After three months Lucy made friends with Zahra a little Indian girl whose family had taken a local shop and turned it into a restaurant. Zahra's parents liked Lucy and Patch and were keen that she enjoyed learning about the English countryside on the nature walks. It was on one of the Saturday walks in the wood that disaster struck. The clouds gathered and the sky got very dark. A loud rumble of thunder a very bright



flash of lightening and Patch rushed off into the trees frightened and in panic. Despite spending ages looking, the two girls couldn't find him and when evening set in they decided to return to Lucy's home. When they arrived they were both soaking wet and very tearful.

Aunty June got hot towels and dried the two girls while Uncle Ron reassured them that dogs normally found their way home. A quick phone call and Zahra's Father Mustapha came over to collect her, arriving in a very brightly painted van. Next morning Lucy got up early in hope and expectation but there was no sign of Patch. Zahra rang and on hearing there was no good news said her family would all go to the Mosque and offer up prayers.

Monday morning came and Lucy set off to catch the bus to school. It was a very sad journey as her thoughts were all about where her little dog could be. In the middle of the morning, classes were disturbed by the Headmaster entering the classroom. All went quiet when he announced that a dog was sitting at the entrance door. He thought it may belong to Lucy and if so she had permission to take him home. Had Zahra's prayers been answered?

Lucy opened the door and there was Patch looking very bedraggled, he jumped up and licked her face he was so pleased to be reunited. As they walked home they were happy knowing that they would be welcomed back by Aunty June and Uncle Ron.

Mike Craig



### **Bowls Club**

The nights are drawing in quickly now and that is a sign the league season is fast approaching. Due to some disruption with the leagues and a couple of clubs dropping out from the top division all three of our teams have gone up to higher divisions. Stuart, our new club Captain, has sorted the teams and handed the fixtures to the team Captains. Matches start first week in October.

During the summer we have enjoyed some friendly matches with mostly good results, but having a good time with friends being the main part of it, and of course the food!! We have also continued to join in with members celebrations and this year has seen a spate of Wedding Anniversaries, Diamond, Golden and Ruby. Congratulations to all.

Unfortunately we have also had members having accidents, Carol hurt her arm badly and has had an operation and had to wear a brace for many weeks which had been uncomfortable. She feels it will take a long while to get her movement and strength back once brace removed. Derek has again fallen off his bike. We wish them both a speedy recovery.

Audrey had a hip operation and glad to say is recovering well. Eddie's knee operation was postponed and he is now waiting to hear the new date. We hope he doesn't have to wait too long.

The Christmas dinner is already well organised thanks to Jane & Barry and we are looking forward to that. We are also looking forward to the quiz on 1st November in aid of the Village Hall Charity for this year, Hearing Help Essex.

We have new Club Champions this year. In the Singles it was a family affair with Emily defeating dad David in the final. In the Pairs after two very close semi-finals Stuart & Melvin defeated Emily & Tom S by one shot and a couple of millimetres on the last end.

*Details of our friendly club can be found on our website:*  
[ramsdenbellhouseSMBC.wordpress.com](http://ramsdenbellhouseSMBC.wordpress.com)

Kay Debenham



### **Your Baptist Church in the Village**

On Saturday 23rd November we are having a Ladies Retreat Day at Pleshy, all ladies are welcome. Again details of this day are available from Marion Jerrom on 01268 710287.

We are planning to have our combined Toys and Tins and Carols by Candlelight Service on 15th December at 4.00p.m. The Toys and Tins part of the service is where gifts of dry food goods, tinned food, toiletries, and new toys and children's books and games are donated and then given to the Basildon Resource Centre for distribution to local families and people in need. Again we hope that people from the village and surrounding areas will be able to join us. We will also celebrate Christmas Day with a short service at 10.30. Again all are welcome.

Our Monday Morning Coffee Break continues, which will be held between 10.30 and 12.00, on the second and fourth Monday of the month; and serves tea, coffee and cakes. Our other regular is the Drop in Breakfast, held on the first Saturday of each month, this is continuing to prove very popular, and we serve a full English breakfast or any



permutation, between 9.00 and 11.00 am for a donation of £3.00. These two regular morning "Drop-ins" offer the opportunity for food and chat. All are invited to come and try these, and you will be guaranteed a warm welcome.

Please feel free to read more about RBBC in our church Review magazine, produced quarterly and which is available free in the village shops in Ramsden Bellhouse and Crays Hill or at RBBC.

Our Sunday services are held at 10.30 am each week. Please do come along and give us a try. You will be very welcome.

Val Rook, Church Secretary



### Teddies for Tragedies Essex Branch

We have been concentrating on blankets to send out so not many teddies have been distributed during the summer, in fact only 270 to Syria and Zambia making our grand total to 295,682. Together with these we sent out many toiletry boxes, bibles and bible notes and, I almost forgot, some crutches.



As I write I am due to go into hospital very shortly for a hip operation so I'm struggling to walk at the moment. However, as soon I am able I will start on the Christmas shoeboxes. They make a huge difference - even the most basic. Just think what would it mean to you to be given a bar of soap or a new pair of socks or a warm hat if you had no money to buy these things for yourself? If you would like to fill a shoebox (ladies size preferably) please contact me for a leaflet which tells you what you can put in (710757). We send shoeboxes to adults, teenagers and children. Please bring some happiness to someone in need this Christmas. Just to let you know the boxes leave me usually at the end of November.

Wishing you all a merry Christmas and a very happy New Year. God Bless.

Audrey Pegrum MBE Essex Branch Organiser



### Bygone Years

This picture of Ramsden Bellhouse Stores and Post Office was taken about 1914.

I think I showed it in an earlier magazine, but in view of our changing village, it may be of interest to newcomers. It stood where the shop stands today, and was owned by Mr Harvey who was also Church warden, and at one time Chairman of Billericay Urban District Council. There is a window to his memory in St. Mary's Church.



*From left to right:  
Postman, Captain Kensdale, Mrs Harvey, Herbert and Eric Harvey (sons), Mr Harvey with Kit the Horse.*

The Horse and carriage in the picture did taxi service for the Village!!

Isabel Johnson





## Rev. Suzy writes

In October Revd Stephen & Fi will have been in Cumbria four months. The draught Parish Profile has been prepared and in the next stage of the process before advertising for, and appointing a new Incumbent to the benefice; although none of us know how long this will take; it could be quite a long time.

By October some resolution will have been found regarding Brexit one way or the other. Although whatever happens there will also be some uncertainty over how things will pan out or what the consequences will be. The weather might have settled down and stop swinging from one extreme to the other every few days or so; And we don't know how global warming might affect our more 'usual' autumn and winter weather patterns?

It seems that we are living in uncertain times on a number of different levels.

However in reality, there is no certainty in life - none of us know what's just around the corner or what the future might bring - even though the old adage tells us that 'The only certainties in life are birth, death and the taxman'!!

True as that may be, as Christians, we believe that there is another more poignant certainty, i.e. God and his steadfast love and care for humanity, and his faithfulness to each and every one of us. It's not always very obvious, especially if we are going through some very hard times, or have suffered a family tragedy or bereavement.

At times like that it's easy for people to blame God and walk away from him hurt and in disbelief. In reality these are the result of the 'fallen' world we live. We only have to watch the news to recognise the consequences of injustice, violence, the desire for power, greed and instant gratification to realise that!

God doesn't promise to protect us from the ups and downs of normal life, from hardship or any other circumstances may find ourselves in. He acts to bring comfort and to relieve suffering through inspiring people's generosity and compassion, their passion for justice, and their charitable actions. He carries those who are suffering, as it tells us in the well known "Footprints" poem, especially when we turn to him in prayer for the world, for our personal circumstances and for those we love and care about. He always answers our prayers but not always in the way we may want him to, or in our time scale for that matter.

God is faithful to his word and his promise to be with us no matter what circumstances we might find ourselves in. We don't always recognise it at the time, but we often do when looking back with the gift of hindsight.

In the midst of uncertainty we can be certain of God's loving care for all his creation, his compassion and faithfulness towards every man, woman and child.

He is unchanging, through the changes and chances of life. He has promised that if you seek after him you will find him - so why not explore the possibilities. The clergy team here are always ready to answer your questions about faith in Christ. You might find yourselves pleasantly surprised. I know I was when I discovered it for myself at the age of 39 at a time when things went very pear shaped in my life.

Revd. Suzy Edmundson.





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## Horticultural

Since March we have had our April Mini Show, visit to RHS Wisley, our "Magic of the Music Hall" event for the hall's charity of the year and our Summer and Autumn Shows. As the saying goes, time flies when you are having fun!

Our Summer Show was held on Saturday 8th of June with a fantastic display of floral art, roses, vegetables, cookery and flowers. Peter Hayday's outstanding vase of Gwendoline sweat peas was awarded an Essex Guild of Horticultural Judges Special Award which are very rarely awarded. Rob Kemp, exhibiting for the first time, won "Best in Show" for his beautifully planted garden urn. Both men were exhibiting at one of our major shows for the first time. It is hugely encouraging to see new exhibitors entering our shows and winning the top prizes.

In July we had our group outing to RHS Wisley for the day which was a great day out. The sun shone and the traffic was kind, all in all the event was a big success. During this month we also hosted our event for the hall's charity of the year Hearing Help Essex. Irene Bowkett gave us a wonderful insight into what it was like at music halls in their day. Tea and homemade cake were provided to all our guests which went down a treat. At the end of the day we were thrilled to raise £490.00 for such a worthwhile charity.

On Saturday 14th September we had our Autumn Show which is always our biggest event of the year. We had an incredible turnout of 242 exhibits from 31 exhibitors. Mike Jolland's gorgeous exhibit of Black Hamburg grapes won "Best in Show" and Best exhibit in the fruit classes. The winner of our annual seed potato growing challenge was also revealed once the doors were opened to the public. The winner was Wayne Carpenter who managed to grow 2.97kg (6.5lb) of potatoes from a single seed potato. One potato in the bag weighed an impressive 718g (25.3oz)!

I would personally like to thank all those who support our events throughout the year. Whether you buy a cup of tea at one of our shows, bring along some exhibits or a sack of potatoes to be weighed your contribution is vital to the continued success of the society.

I need to add up the points and confirm who has won the trophies for 2019. Once this is done the work on the schedule for 2020 will begin. Show dates to be announced shortly.

Thomas Carpenter, Show Secretary

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## Normal Weekly Pattern of Activities:

Sunday	10.00 a.m. - 12 noon	RB Table Tennis	(NH)
	2.00 - 6.00 p.m.	Boxer Dogs (3rd Sunday of month)	(OH)
	7.30 - 10.30 p.m.	Ballroom Dancing	(OH)
Monday	9.00 a.m. - 2.00 p.m.	Pre-School (except school holidays)	(OH)
	9.30 a.m. - 1.30 p.m.	Sewing Group	(NH)
	7.15 - 9.45 p.m.	Dog Training (except 3rd Monday of month)	(OH)
	7.30 - 10.00 p.m.	RB Short Mat Bowls	(NH)
	8.00 - 10.00 p.m.	Horticulture (3rd Monday of month)	(OH)
Tuesday	9.00 a.m. - 2.00 p.m.	Pre-School (except school holidays)	(OH)
	10.30 a.m. - 12 noon	Yoga	(NH)
	4.30 - 5.30 p.m.	Mini Tennis	(NH)
	7.30 - 10.30 p.m.	Dog Training	(OH)
	7.30 - 10.00 p.m. RB	Short Mat Bowls	(NH)
Wednesday	9.00 a.m. - 2.00 p.m.	Pre-School (except school holidays)	(OH)
	10.00 a.m. - 12.30pm	RB Short Mat Bowls	(NH)
	4.00 - 6.00 p.m.	Karate / Kick Boxing	(NH)
	5.45 - 7.15 p.m.	Cubs	(OH)
	7.30 - 9.30 p.m.	Scouts	(OH)
	7.00 - 10.00 p.m.	Brentwood Table Tennis League	(NH)
Thursday	9.00 a.m. - 2.00 p.m.	Pre-School (except school holidays)	(OH)
	10.00 a.m. - 12 noon	Tai Chi	(NH)
	7.00 - 10.00 p.m.	Sanguine Short Mat Bowls	(NH)
	7.30 - 9.30 p.m.	Medau	(OH)
Friday	9.00 a.m. - 2.00 p.m.	Pre-School (except school holidays)	(OH)
	1.30 - 4.30 p.m.	RB Short Mat Bowls	(NH)
	We have a Badminton Court laid out with posts and a net which can be hired most Friday Evenings		
Saturday	9.00 a.m. - 4.30 p.m.	Tutoring Group	Committee Room
	7.15 - 10.00 p.m.	Fun Whist Drive (2nd Saturday of month)	(OH)

New Hall (NH) Old Hall (OH)

## Village Events

### NOVEMBER 2019

<b>Saturday 2nd</b>	Drop in Breakfast	9.00am - 11.00am	Baptist Church
<b>Friday 8th</b>	Beetle Drive	7.30pm	Village Hall
<b>Saturday 9th</b>	Fun Whist	7.15pm	Village Hall
<b>Sunday 10th</b>	Remembrance Service	10.45am	Village Hall
<b>Saturday 23rd</b>	Crunch	9.00am - Midday	Village Hall

### DECEMBER

<b>Saturday 7th</b>	Drop in Breakfast	9.00am - 11.00am	Baptist Church
<b>Saturday 7th</b>	Christmas Bazaar	Midday - 4.00pm	Village Hall
<b>Saturday 14th</b>	Fun Whist	7.15pm	Village Hall
<b>Sunday 15th</b>	Toys, Tinsel and Candlelight Service	4.00pm	Baptist Church
<b>Thursday 19th</b>	Carol Service	7.30pm	St Mary's Church
<b>Wednesday 25th</b>	Short Service	10.30am	Baptist Church

### JANUARY 2020

<b>Saturday 4th</b>	Drop in Breakfast	9.00am - 11.00am	Baptist Church
<b>Saturday 11th</b>	Fun Whist	7.15pm	Village Hall
<b>Sunday 26th</b>	Village Hall AGM	3.00pm	Village Hall

### FEBRUARY

<b>Saturday 1st</b>	Drop in Breakfast	9.00am - 11.00am	Baptist Church
<b>Saturday 8th</b>	Fun Whist	7.15pm	Village Hall
<b>Saturday 22nd</b>	History of Ramsden	2.00 - 5.00pm	Village Hall
<b>Sunday 23rd</b>	History of Ramsden	11.00am - 5.00pm	Village Hall

### MARCH

<b>Saturday 7th</b>	Drop in Breakfast	9.00am - 11.00am	Baptist Church
<b>Saturday 14th</b>	Fun Whist	7.15pm	Village Hall
<b>Saturday 14th</b>	Crunch	9.00am - Midday	Village Hall

### APRIL

<b>Saturday 4th</b>	Drop in Breakfast	9.00am - 11.00am	Baptist Church
<b>Saturday 11th</b>	Fun Whist	7.15pm	Village Hall
<b>Sunday 26th</b>	St George's Breakfast	9.00am - Midday	Village Hall

### MAY

<b>Saturday 2nd</b>	Drop in Breakfast	9.00am - 11.00am	Baptist Church
<b>Saturday 9th</b>	Fun Whist	7.15pm	Village Hall



## Village Directory

Village Hall	Chairman	- Clive Jeffree	710559
	Booking Secretary	- Audrey Pegrum	01268 710757
	Minutes Secretary	- Hilary Simpson	01268 711118
Treasurer	- Derek Swan		710478
	Social Secretary	- Ann Wellborne	710250
Magazine	Editor	- Isabel Johnson	710428
	Advertising	- Isabel Johnson	710428
Dog Training	Monday (except 3rd in month)		
	7.15pm - 9.45pm	- Sandy Black	01268 734357
St Mary's Church	Church Warden	- Beryl Clements	01245 601298
Horticultural	3rd Monday in the month except July, August		
	and December	- Philippa Jenkinson	01268 733594
Ladies Medau	Thursday 8pm	- Veronica Greenwood	01702 559914
Cubs	Wed 5.45pm - 7.15pm	- Sue Walter	sue.walter1@icloud.com
Scouts	Wed 7.30pm - 9.30pm	- Chris Maker	01277 652337
	except 2nd Wed in month		
Baptist Church	Val Rook		01277 632006
Bowls	Mon 7.30pm, Tues 7.30pm,		
	Wed 10am, Fri 1.30pm	- Hilary Simpson	01268 711118
Dancing Club	Every Sunday 7.45pm - 10.30pm		
	General Dancing	- Barry Gardiner	07702 233898
Whist Drive	Roy Richards (see Village Events)		710669
Line Dancing	Every Monday 2.30pm - 3.30pm	Ken Dobson	710771
Bellhouse Preschool	Mon to Fri 9.30am - 2.00pm		07881 448686
Website	www.ramsdenbellhouse.info		
Ramsden Parish Council	Georgina Bassett	ramsdenbellhousepc@outlook.com	

# Summerhill

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