



# RAMSDEN BELLHOUSE

## Village Magazine Summer 2011



Clive Jeffree presents the Village Charity cheque for £3,283 to the  
Motor Neurone Representative

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## A Word from the Editor

By the time you read this winter will hopefully be behind us. At the end of November, the snow suddenly came down, leading to the cancellation of many Christmas Events. It looked very beautiful but made many older people housebound. I would like to thank all my neighbours and friends who made sure I was safe and had all I needed.

To go to the other end of the age scale, it would be really interesting to get some input to the magazine from the youth of this village. The magazine should cater for the whole village, but without a younger input, it can seem like a poor version of SAGA magazine! As a pensioner I cannot put forward a young view without the help of the younger generation. I have asked before with no luck so I don't hold out much hope, Prove me wrong!

Sad to say, pink refuse sacks are still going out on the wrong week. Not only does this spoil the spring-like look of our village, but invariably some creature distributes your rubbish into a rather nasty display.

When sending in your entries for the next magazine, there is an email address to which you can send it direct if you have that facility, This considerably cuts down the work, and makes proof reading much easier. I still edit and proof read them, so there is no need to show me them first.

The magazine is always sent to BBC Essex, and on many occasions poems have been read out on Sunday early morning show. This happened with the poem in the last issue. How about sending in some original poems?

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

Isabel Johnson

### **COPY FOR WINTER ISSUE**

Please send copy for the next magazine by September 20th 2011, if you have the facilities please send it as a WORD file or just as an email direct to **bryan.diggory@sky.com** also photos etc.

## Chairman's Report

Spring is definitely in the air with the daffodils in bloom and blossom on the trees

The Village Hall refurbish work has now been completed, all the tiling work and mods to the toilets finished, the old hall has been repainted and new curtains fitted. The grant money has now come through so our finances are again looking healthy. Unfortunately, as explained at the A.G.M. the rents have had to be increased to help with large increases in gas and electricity prices. We are still awaiting the council rates demand which we hope will be reasonable !!! All in all this coming year looks to be a tough one.

On a lighter note last year's Christmas Bazaar was a great success, although we could still do with many more visitors. Father Christmas had his usual young visitors and the Fancy Dress Competition proved a success, even the old bird helped to increase the days fun.

Our last event – The History of Ramsden – thanks to Isabel and her band of helpers, proved as interesting as usual,

At the Annual General Meeting the vote for this year's charity was Help for Heroes so let's make special effort to support our gallant Armed Forces. Last year's charity – Motor Neurone Society - received a cheque for £3,283 presented at the A.G.M.

Lastly, let's hope that this year turns out better than predicted and that the Hall continues to go from strength to strength.

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



### **Advertising Rates**

Coloured Half pages - limited	£30.00
Black & White (Mono) Half Pages	£20.00
Black & White (Mono) Quarter Pages	£12.00

## St Mary's Church

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

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

Once again St. Mary's joined the Baptist Church and the Cubs and Scouts for the annual Remembrance Day Service, at the Village Hall which was attended by over 100 people. The collection of £158 was donated to BLESMA. Other joint services with the Baptist Church took place in February and on Palm Sunday and more have been arranged for 10<sup>th</sup> July at the Baptist Church and 9<sup>th</sup> October at St. Mary's, all at 10.30am.

Our planned Carol Singing in the Village in December was unfortunately a victim of inclement weather, but the Carol Service in the Church went ahead, the collection of £90 being donated to St. Luke's Hospice.

On the Social and Fundraising front, last year's Autumn Fair in November was reasonably well attended raising a total of £606. Coming later this year will be:- Spring Fair on 14<sup>th</sup> May, 11am to 2pm at the Village Hall. Garden Party, on a date to be arranged in July, at Isabel Johnson's house, Bramhill, Orchard Avenue. Flower Festival at the Church over the August Bank Weekend (27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>). Quiz Nights remain popular with a number of regular participants, but newcomers are always welcome. Our Charity Quiz in November for the Motor Neurone Disease Association attracted a record 14 teams, and raised £690. The Quiz on 2<sup>nd</sup> February raised £524 for St. Mary's Church Funds, and at the time of writing the next is planned for 2<sup>nd</sup> April for Village Hall Funds.

Finally, a reminder that the Service at St. Mary's at 10.30am on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month is a Family Service when families and people of any age are very welcome. This is a simple service which lasts about 45 minutes and tea, coffee, squash and biscuits are served afterwards. (Of course, the welcome extends to all our other services too!

Alan Pegrum

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## Whist Spring 2011

Our whist evenings continue (second Saturday of each month, 7-15pm), with a fairly regular band of enthusiasts and a 'rolling' group who support the evening when they can. At the Christmas session we award a prize for the man and the woman who have achieved the highest single score throughout the year. We aren't talking megabucks here, just a bottle of wine, or something similar, but the prestige...! After all, it is fun whist, with the emphasis on fun.

For those in the village who have not been in the Hall recently, we now have lovely new curtains which, apart from making it seem a lot cosier, absorb some of the echo and make it easier to hear the inter-table chat.


I continue to invite residents in the Bellhouse to join us, meet some of their neighbours and help to maintain a community spirit relevant to village life.

Although now well advanced, I wish everyone a happy and healthy 2011.

Angela Hodivala

## The Ship

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### Friday Evening Badminton Club

This is my first report for the club and I would like to start by stating that it is such a friendly club and I am so pleased that I went along and subsequently joined.

Sadly, as mentioned in our last report we are having trouble sustaining numbers especially as we seem somewhat injury-prone at the moment. So, if you have played before and would like to play again, please give us a call. If you have an interest in sport and would like to give us a try, we can offer advice and pointers on how to improve and see if you can fit the bill!

We have successfully welcomed 3 new members lately: Chris, Steve and Rob, a new village resident. We wish you many happy times with us. We consider ourselves fortunate as all three play at a very good level.

Sadly Chris H is still recovering from a lengthy shoulder injury, Ernie has had surgery, Trevor is also not playing at the moment due to injury,

and unfortunately Glenys and Bryan are no longer members but hopefully will be coming along as guests from time to time. We really hope to see you all again as soon as possible.

We managed a good turnout of members for the Christmas Bazaar and we offered our usual games for the children (and the young at heart). Our Christmas Meal was held at The White Hart near Stock, and we thank Gill for making all the arrangements. (Heartfelt thanks to Kim and Barry who expertly coped with a first aid emergency on the night.)

Our details: 8pm - 10pm Friday Evenings

Derek: 710613 - Gill 710818

Guest fees are only £3.00 for the two hours and annual membership is extremely modest. Look forward to hearing from you!

Regrettably the Thursday afternoon Ladies Badminton has now ceased to exist.

Glyn Yeldham



### Horticultural

When I see the first buds and shoots back in the garden my heart skips a beat, we have both survived Winter.

My last report was before the last Autumn Show in which Rusi Hodivala did extremely well. September and October we had two good speakers and good attendance. Also the Harvest Supper was in October, thank you Isabel for arranging and all you do for this event. November was our AGM and Christmas Buffet. Ken stepped down as Show manager, we thank you for doing this for so many years.

January a slide show by Sheila Morgan, one of our members, she had excellent slides. February the Inter Society Quiz was hosted by us and won by Ramsden Heath, way ahead against 9 teams. well done.

The trading hut is open for all members on Sundays from 10.00am until noon and Ken said it is well stocked. We still have 5 good speakers, 2 shows, a visit to the Italian Garden Cookery School and a musical event to come. Look on the notice board for Society posters. We meet on the third Monday of each month at 8.00pm we are always pleased to see members new and old.

Marion Shillum





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## Scout Report

Over the past six months the Scouts have undertaken a wide range of activities on Wednesday evenings and at the weekends. During September we camped at Belchamps near Hockley for an activity weekend, which included high ropes, traversing wall and an assault course. In January we once again we took part in the National Pedal Car Olympics at Thriftwood near Brentwood. We had three teams out of 100 so the site was very busy with Scouts from all over the country with the added bonus that there was no snow this year! Back in November a number of Scouts enjoyed the district night hike from Wickford to Billericay. This was an incident hike with a few surprises on the way.

Scouts like badges and a lot of time has been spent doing the activities towards these. Ten Scouts gained their Master at Arms badge after taking part in the district Archery competition during October. Other badge activities have included swimming, IT and communications.

Cooking is a favourite, especially around a camp fire. Burnt toast

anyone! Pancakes have been made and tossed – sometimes ending up on the floor, breakfasts cooked, chocolate rice crispy and cornflake cakes and sticky coconut ice made. Ready steady cook made for an interesting evening. The Scouts even wash up afterwards, with a little persuasion.

The Scouts did their bit for others when in January a charity night was held in aid of the Motor Neurone Disease Association, the Village Hall Charity. In groups of three they undertook a variety of physical and mental tasks covering a wide range of skills. Sponsorship raised a tidy sum.

Over a number of weeks each Patrol had to organise a challenge event for the other Patrols. This was a good learning experience for them in having to organise, explain the rules and run each event. The Leaders had several Scouts complaining that the others were not listening. The penny then dropped as they realised that this is something that the Leaders go through every week. However, they all reverted to form during the following weeks.

We have four Patrols: Lions, Tigers, Wolves and Foxes with a total of 34 Scouts. A number of these are looking forward to the District Scout Camp to France in May after which we will lose three of the older Scouts as they move on to Explorer Scouts or other adventures. We wish them well. As the days draw out and get warmer there will more outdoor events taking place including hikes and camps.

Chris Maker Assistant Scout Leader



## Cub Report

In November the Pack painted terracotta pots in which they planted crocus bulbs, we have since heard these have bloomed quite well.

The Packs Christmas treat was a visit to the cinema to see “Voyage of the Dawn Treader” (part of the Chronicles of Narnia). We watched this in 3D and all had a great time.

I am pleased to announce that several cubs have gained The Essex County Challenge Badge for which they have worked throughout 2010. The final part of this challenge was a competition to design a Christmas card for 2011.

It has been a busy and successful start to the New Year with our Pack

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## Parish Council

As I write we are coming to the end of the Parish Council’s year which, for some obscure historic reason, happens in May. The new civic year begins with the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council which this year takes place on 17<sup>th</sup>. At that meeting the Chairman is elected, other roles and responsibilities allocated and the meeting schedule agreed. It is also the date for publication of the Council’s Annual Report, which includes the statement of accounts, available in hard copy at the meeting and also on the website.

The year’s major achievement was the playground improvement project. We know that this has been a highly successful project because you can now see the playground being well used whereas before it was usually empty. This was an expensive scheme for the Parish costing £22,851 before VAT, but we applied for funding and were awarded grants by Essex County Council’s Community Initiatives Fund of £7,500 and Veolia Essex Cleanaway Pitsea Marshes Trust of £14,460. Basildon Council’s Parks Department gave permission for the improvements, inspected them as they were installed and has taken over responsibility for them.

Basildon Council has asked the Parish Council to publicise a new service called **Warn and Inform**. You register your postcode and email or mobile phone number with the scheme and you will receive information relevant to where you live in the case of an emergency. You can find the scheme by going to [www.basildon.gov.uk](http://www.basildon.gov.uk) and clicking on *Emergencies*. It is about half way down the new page that appears.

Please do come along to the Parish Council meetings held in the Village Hall. The dates are posted on the noticeboard and the website.

Karen Plumridge, Clerk to the Parish Council  
01245 400628 [www.essexinfo.net/ramsdensbellhouseparishcouncil](http://www.essexinfo.net/ramsdensbellhouseparishcouncil)



When we are young we want to change the world.  
When we are old we want to change the young.

Anon



## Daffodil Day

This was held rather earlier than usual, and combined with the harsh weather conditions earlier in the winter was somewhat lacking outside in the essential ingredient – i.e. daffodils! However it has always been an indoor event, so “Bramhill” was well decorated with this lovely spring flower.

After a very slow start (where did you all go in the morning?), the afternoon attendance was amazing. Anyone who knows my lounge, can well wonder how we managed to get thirty people and a wheelchair in there! And there were more in the kitchen and back porch. It was certainly standing room only. A walk round a rather bleak and muddy garden was available but not obligatory. (I think only two people took up this option!)

In all £390.50 was raised for St Mary’s Church. (Friend’s of St Mary’s). If you would like to become a “Friend” ring Len Ferris on 01268 710165. You do not have to attend St Mary’s to become a “Friend”.

Lastly thanks to all the dedicated helpers so vital in making this a success.

Isabel Johnson

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## Bowls

What a muddle the winter weather caused. The coldest winter for 100 years, although I don't remember that far back. Arrangements cancelled and delayed in as much as the Bowls Christmas party was finally held in March. What a lovely evening with special thanks to Jacquie. Angela and Barbara for the superb four course meal. nobody was hungry after that spread. Special thanks to Barbara who soldiered on sporting a broken wrist. She was truly "plastered" but managed to still stand upright. There was a quiz and a film quiz which made us all use that grey matter, great fun.

Awards were given to the club competition winners. namely Tom and Carol Dines. Derek Jackson and Roy Richards. well done.

There was a cause for sadness, with the passing of a long standing member, Rose Kinsella who always supported the club's activities. When Rose and another member Bert Edwards played as a pair their combined ages were more than 110 years but were a strong playing duo.

Rose had many family and friends to see her off in a grand style.

Carol Finn



## Rose

Goodbye dear Rose, I wish you all the best  
Now it's time for you to take a well earned rest  
We had such fun for many years, a lot of laughs, but never tears  
Although I feel acute distress I dearly want to say GOD BLESS

Bowls will not be quite the same, I shall miss you every game  
If you are watching from above, I'd be very grateful love,  
If you would try to give me strength, to improve upon my length  
And if only you can spare the time, I'd like assistance with my line

I'm sure that this is not the end  
And that we will meet again, my friend.

Bert Edwards (Rose's bowling partner).



## History of Ramsden

First of all I would like to say that this NOT a talk a lecture, neither is it a 3 hour film show. It is, as it says an exhibition of pictures, maps and documents of your village. It has also a small museum of past years, showing exhibits of domestic, educational and wartime interest. Have you ever seen a gas mask, touched a very old bible, or played a wind up gramophone?

The exhibition has now been running in one form or another for twenty two years. it has been suggested that it has run its course and enough is enough. (The visitors book totally denies this). Perhaps you think like this, and will let me know through the medium of this magazine - ie *Letters to the Editor*.

I count this years event as a complete success. Saturday afternoon was very well attended. The visitors included Dave Monk and his wife of BBC Essex fame. It was a private visit and was treated as such. He lived for part of his childhood in the 'White Horse' at Ramsden Heath, and ran an occasional disco in the Bellhouse Village Hall. They stayed for almost two hours, and he gave us a very good mention on his programme the

following Monday. We also got a good write up in the 'Gazette', which led to some interesting phone calls to me.

Sunday attendance was a little disappointing, and led me to wonder with sadness on how few Ramsden Bellhouse residents are interested in the village, whilst surrounding areas, and ex Ramsdenites showed a good interest. On a personal level it was lovely to meet people from years gone by to modern days.

A big thank you to all my helpers (too many to mention) is my pleasure to record. This year the community police officers were a great help with the heavier work! We are a great team and without them this exhibition would not be possible. Maybe see you next year?

Isabel Johnson



## Dog Training

Ramsden Bellhouse Dog Club has gone from strength to strength, we have many new members, both pet people and obedience competitive people. Lots of success in competitions and our Open Show in September has proved very successful and is now an annual event. This show is a Kennel Club registered event and only dogs registered can enter, but we have people come from all over the South East to enter. We also run a training ring from which the proceeds go to the hall charity fund.

Val had qualified for the final stages to be picked for the team in the CRUFTS regional obedience competition but due to Harvey's illness (from which he has, thankfully, recovered fully) her and Hannah were not on their best form so missed out this year. Our Young Kennel Club flyball team had once again qualified, but one of the dogs just decided it was all too much so were knocked out in the first stage of racing.. CRUFTS is a huge show 'the biggest dog show in the world', so it is never 100% that the, dogs can cope with the atmosphere. Devastatingly, Alex's beautiful Libbie had to be put to sleep when unknowingly after eating a large piece of rubber her intestines were so badly damaged they could not be repaired. With Fiona having recently lost Chance the club has suffered some very upsetting times. I'm sure every ones sympathies are with you both, these were both very young dogs so of course it is a huge shock. Alex made the decision to buy herself another puppy, and now we have Mistie to join us and hopefully make the progress Libbie had done so well.

Our AGM will be Tuesday, 31st May as usual so please try to attend.

With the Open Show in mind, could anyone donate some good prizes

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WEDDING FLOWERS

to the club's fund please for the tombola stall, proceeds of which will also go to the halls charity fund.

Rita Barber - Secretary



## Village Hall Fees

### Monday to Friday & Sunday – Hourly Hire Charges:

Private bookings:	£9.00 per hour (Minimum of 3 hours)
Village Hall sections:	£4.50 per hour (No minimum period)

### Saturday Hire Charges:- (per hall)

(A Saturday evening is 6.00pm to midnight.  
Additional hours prior to 6.00pm charged at  
The standard rate of £9.00 per hour).

		In Village	Elsewhere
	9.00am - 1.00pm	£40.00	£45.00
	1.00am - 6.00pm	£55.00	£60.00
Saturday Evenings	6.00pm - midnight	<u>£120.00</u>	<u>£200.00</u>
All Day	9.00am - midnight	£215.00 + £100	£305.00 + £100

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Committee Room	£8.00 per evening
Kitchen storage cupboard	£0.50p per week

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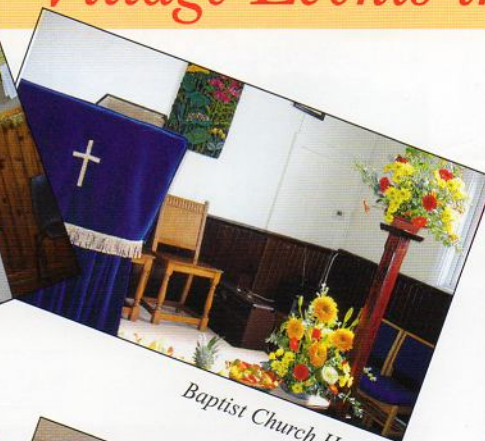
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## Village Events th



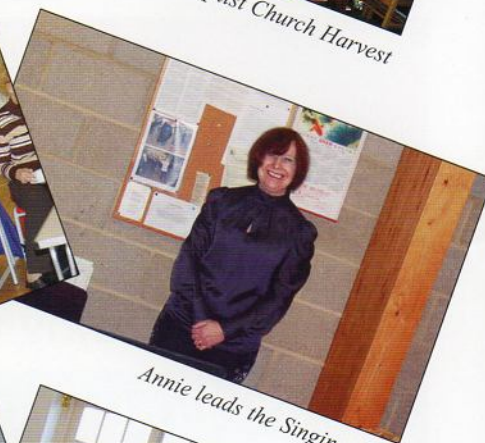
Christmas Bazaar



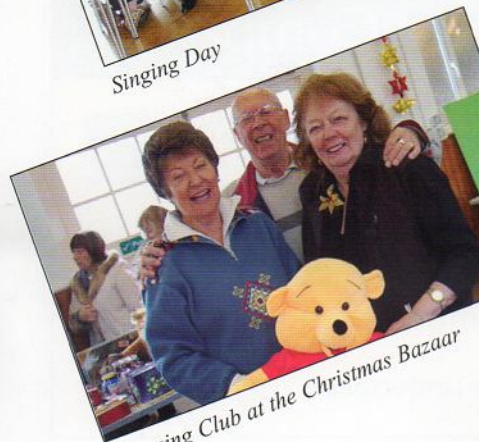
Baptist Church Harvest



Singing Day



Annie leads the Singing Day



Dancing Club at the Christmas Bazaar



Dancing Club at the Christmas Bazaar



throughout the year



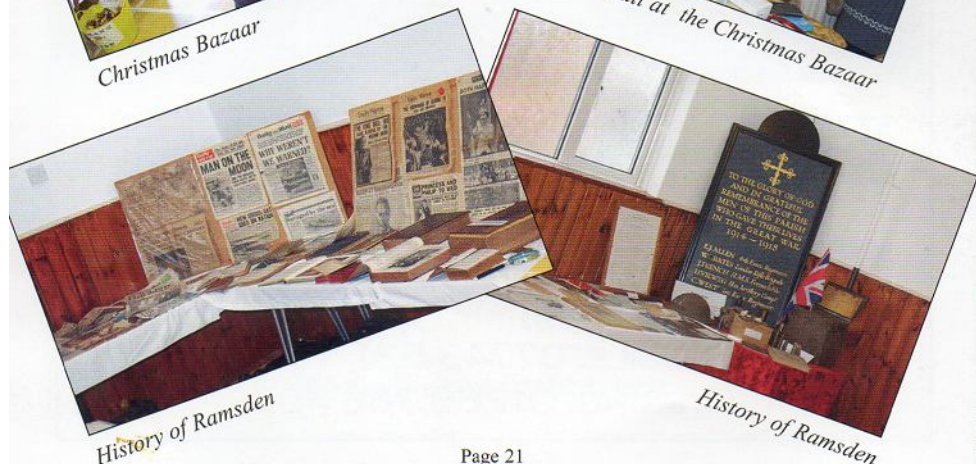
Village Hall AGM

Village Hall AGM



Christmas Bazaar

Dog Club stall at the Christmas Bazaar



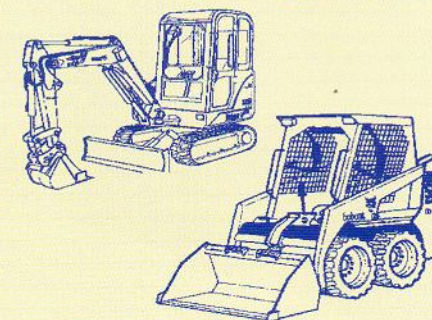
History of Ramsden

History of Ramsden

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*References Available*

## Help!

Ramsden Bellhouse is a village. It may not have a village green as its centre, nor the community sense of Larkrise, Candleford or even Ambridge, but never the less it is a village. We are lucky enough to have a pub, shop and excellent village hall, friendly Baptist Church and beautiful ancient Parish Church carefully preserved and loved by a small group of people. We have easy access to trains, shops and hospital making it a good place to live.

The one thing that is increasingly lacking is a sense of community and neighbourliness. This of course is not true if everybody, because there are many groups of people who meet and enjoy a large variety of activities from whist to walking and dog training to dancing. There are also many good neighbours and acts of kindness, but there are also a great number of people up and down the several roads which make up the village who remain more or less isolated within their homes and make little or no effort to make contacts outside their immediate family.

Of course we are not all joiners and mixers, but there is a difference between not taking any part at all in what goes on in the village and making the effort to take some interest and perhaps contributing in some small way.

It is sad to say that if some of the younger generation and newcomers to the Bellhouse do not begin to show a little more interest in local affairs, any community spirit will be gone in the years ahead because it is mostly the older generation and people from outside the village who work hard to keep it going.

An example of our apathy is the recently held "History of Ramsden" exhibition. The same few people work hard each year to present this informative and interesting event. Fliers are delivered to each house and the dates are advertised well in advance. Although the event is fairly well attended, sadly few visitors actually live in the village. This is also true of many other activities.

We are not unique in this modern dilemma but this is our small community and with very little effort we can do something about it. I have asked to remain anonymous because I do not wish to be seen as some "goody two shoes" with a hand in every pie. This is far from the truth! I am an old resident in both senses of the word who does not want to see any village spirit we have become a thing of the past.

Anon

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### **Letter to the Editor**

I had the privilege of reading your Winter 2010 Village Magazine.

I just has to write to tell you how much I enjoyed the contents. The news of all the clubs and your poems I am sure all who have the magazine find it very informative and realise how hard you work to produce such a good product. Well done.

Sheila Frogg

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### **Teddies for Tragedies Essex Branch**

Over the winter months 3,867 teddies were sent to Zambia, Romania, Kosovo, Sri Lanka, Sierra Leone and Morocco. Westcliff High School for Girls is taking part in World Challenge and Charlotte a pupil from this Village is participating. She arranged with her teacher for the girls to take some teddies with them and by the time you read this they will have been and come back. So now we can add a new country to our list receiving teddies and say we have now distributed in 56 countries! The total now since 1995 is 267,833.



The Shoe Box Appeal for Christmas resulted in 500 boxes being given to Blythwood Care Rochester. They sent out over 118,000 boxes mainly to Serbia, Romania and Hungary. At a meeting I attended recently I learned that the number of boxes sent was slightly down on last year, but I was very pleased that our 500 boxes was 100 up on last year so a big thank you to everyone who filled a box or gave me items to put in, and another big thank you to the ladies of Park Lodge Billericay for covering an enormous number of boxes with Christmas paper ready for me to fill. It certainly saved me a lot of time and I was able to deal with more boxes. Many thanks to Joan Kelly for organising this. The Shoeboxes show that somebody cares and give so much joy to young and old alike.

The convoy to Kosovo is not actually leaving until May this year, but has already been to collect from me. This time I was able to give them 2,000 margarine boxes filled with toiletries. This number was absolutely marvellous as they had been collected since the 700 given to them in September. Thank you to many of you who give me filled boxes or items to put in them. I go to Bowls every Friday and most times I return home with items that have been given to me. It is great to know that a 500 gram margarine box filled with soap, flannel, folded toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo etc, can give so much pleasure. Apparently they clamour for them out there. I was also able to give the convoy 1500 teddies, 340 clowns, 2 large clowns and many sacks of shoes, blankets, new knitted jumpers, cardigans etc. And a big box of medical supplies.

It is wonderful how things come together. Recently I was give given a knitting machine and the very next day I received a phone call asking if I would like three sacks of knitting machine wool so, of course, I was delighted to accept and sent the machine and the wool out together to Br. Titus in Zambia who has set up sewing group with the sewing and knitting machine I've already sent out.

Audrey Pegrum MBE, Essex Branch Organiser



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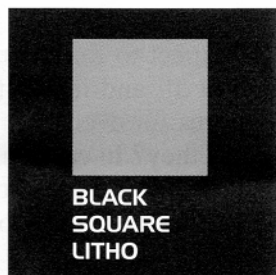


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## Ballroom Dancing

A lot has happened since the last magazine. We have had our charity event, the Dreamweavers, and once again it was a sellout and very enjoyable. One of our members Bryan raised the grand sum of £720 for us, bringing our total for charity the best we had ever done £1,037,25, many thanks Bryan.

We missed our Halloween Buffet (2010) due to the closure of the hall but made up for it at Christmas. Since the start of 2011 we have celebrated a 70th birthday, Burns Night which included haggis neeps and a wee dram, Valentines and our 21st Birthday do when six of the founder members came.

It was a very nice evening, all this and its only 6th March. 2011 is going to be a very busy year with six more birthdays to celebrate plus the usual, making a total of 11 buffets as far as we know.

With all these parties going on you may not realise that most of us are in our mid 60's and 70's proving dancing keeps you young. Oh by the way we do some dancing as well.

Joan Telkman



## From the Baptist Church Minister

On the rare occasions that I am dispatched by my wife to somewhere like Waitrose or Sainsbury to buy some small item or the other, I invariably get 'lost' on entering the store concerned. I can always, for instance, find the chocolate biscuits but where on earth is baking powder to be found? Or a particular kind of cheese? Or even mixed spice for that matter?

So I look for one of the assistants, who are always very helpful, and they know exactly where the item is to be found. Home I go, mission accomplished.

But why are these items always where you least expect to find them? I sometimes wonder if they are meant to be found at all and it's just a cunning plot to keep us wandering around the big stores for ever.

Yet things do get put away and then forgotten don't they? In cases like that it's not so much 'where do I find it?' but rather, 'I didn't even know I had it!' Something gets tucked away and then other things occupy our mind and we simply forget.

In early March this year it was reported in the newspapers that a

certain church in Wiltshire had found an old Bible hidden away on a dusty shelf and that too seemed to have been forgotten. well perhaps no surprise to find a Bible in a church except that this particular Bible was one of just two hundred that had actually been published in 1611- an 'original' King James Version!

Many years ago now, my grandmother died and I helped my parents clear out her effects. Put away in a corner cupboard we found a stack - and it was a stack - of something like a dozen Bibles all nearly new and dating from the 1920's. Judging by the label inside each book these had been Sunday School prizes earned by her children (including my father) long ago and there they were, still new and unused gathering dust in an old cupboard.

Curiously enough, there is a story in the Bible - the part we call the Old Testament - about a man called Hilkiah who was the high priest in the temple. Anyway, one day, speaking to a messenger from the king, Hilkiah mentioned that he also had found a forgotten book. He called it 'the Book of the Law' which we understand is a Bible.

Through the Book having been lost and hidden away, the king and everyone else in the land had completely lost touch with the Law of God and it was only on finding this book that they realised what a complete moral mess the entire country had slid into over the years. Needless to say, steps are taken to put things right. (*you can read all this for yourselves in II Kings, chapters 22 and 23*).

This year, 2011, is the 400th anniversary of the publication of what we call the King James Bible, the 'Authorised version'. Perhaps the language of it does seem a bit old fashioned to us today but having said that it is very widely available in modern English - the New International Version for example. .

Perhaps, just perhaps, you also have a forgotten copy of a Bible hidden away in your home somewhere. Think about it, this could be an opportunity to dig out and have a good read of what it says. Despite its age, the Bible still has plenty that is relevant to our living today - in fact' you might be quite surprised. But please, do give it a look - you never know what you might find.

Geoffrey Griggs, Baptist Minister.



## Low-Fat Carrot Cake

### Ingredients:

3oz (75g) peeled and grated carrot (about 1 medium-sized carrot)  
 4oz (110g) plain wholewheat flour  
 ½ level teaspoon bicarbonate of soda  
 ½ level teaspoon ground cinnamon  
 3fl oz (75ml) groundnut oil  
 3oz (75g) soft brown sugar  
 1 large egg, lightly beaten  
 2oz (50g) chopped walnuts

### For the topping:

2oz (50g) low-fat soft cream cheese  
 1oz (25g) icing sugar, sieved  
 2 teaspoon vanilla extract  
 8 walnut pieces (optional)  
 Pre-heat the oven to gas mark 2, 300°F (150°C).  
 You will need a 1lb (450g) loaf tin 6x3¾ x2¾ inches (15x9.5x7cm).



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Brush it with some melted butter, then line the base with greaseproof paper, and brush that as well.

Grate the carrot straight into a mixing bowl, then sift in the dry ingredients to give them a good airing and tip any grains left behind in the sieve into the bowl too. Add all the rest of the cake ingredients and stir well until everything is well and truly mixed, then scrape the mixture into your prepared tin.

Bake the cake in the centre of the oven for 1 hour, or until well risen. When cooked it will come about two-thirds of the way up the tin and just begin to shrink away from the sides of the tin. After that remove it from the oven and leave the tin on a wire rack to cool for 5 minutes before turning the cake out and stripping off the paper.

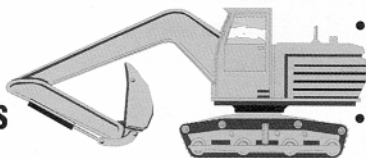
When it has cooled for 45 minutes or so, you can spread the topping on. To make the topping, combine the ingredients in a small bowl and beat until smooth. Spread it thickly on the top of the cake and decorate it, perhaps with additional walnut pieces. Store in an airtight tin or container.



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## Personal Page

### *In Memory of*

**Rose Kinsella** who died in January. She had lived in Ramsden Bellhouse until recently in Homestead Road and then in Church Road. She was involved for many years in the Riding Club and the Ladies Club. She was also a very active member of the Bowls Club, serving on the committee, and arranging matches for many years. She was a true Village Lady supporting many other village events until very recently. Rose and her smile will be sadly missed. Our sympathy goes to her family.

**David White** who died in March. He was a Governor of Downham School and an active member of St Mary's Church, where he was secretary to the Parochial Church Council and the "Friends of St Mary's." Our sympathy goes to his family.

**Olive Gray** who died in March. She lived in Ramsden Bellhouse in the 1950's and 60's, where she had a pig farm in Orchard Avenue. Our sympathy goes out to her friends.

**John Hopper** who died peacefully at home on 26th March. He was the Baptist Church Minister 1993 - 2001

### *Congratulations to*

**Isabel Johnson** on the birth of her third great grandchild, Thomas George on 1st December 2010. Grandson to Anne and Alan, son to Kirsty and Stuart and brother to Elizabeth and Megan.

**Joan Kelly** on the birth of her great grandson Fraser Miles on April 16th, her second great grandchild. His parents are Veronica and Gary and his grandparents are Nicola and John.



*Looking for something to do August Bank Holiday  
Visit the Flower Festival at St Mary's Church  
and the Art Show at the Village Hall*



### The Find

"Mother I've found an old dusty thing, high on the shelf - just look!"

"Why, that's a Bible Tommy dear be careful that's God's book"

"God's book" the child exclaimed "then Mother before we lose it we'd better send it back to God, for you know we never use it".

Author unknown

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### Baptist Church

**Church Services:** Every Sunday at 10.30am (Communion on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month). A Bible Study alternates with a Prayer Meeting on Wednesday at 7.30 pm. An informal "Drop In" held in the Church Hall every Monday from 10.30am to 12 noon for coffee or tea and a chat.

When I wrote the last article for the Village Magazine it ended anticipating the approaching Christmas period. our "Carols by Candlelight" was indeed held, despite the snowy and very cold weather although we did have to cancel a couple of services prior to that when the snow was very bad. We usually have a full church at our Carol service but last year was the first time for some years that we had some empty seats. The snow and cold undoubtedly deterred some from venturing out, and also several people were not well at that time. Nevertheless the service went well and the church choir, led by Ann Griggs, contributed with some lovely pieces. Geoffrey Griggs led the service and preached the sermon highlighting the Christmas story, which we had heard read to us from various bible passages between singing the carols.

On the 9th of January our service was taken by Sheila Martin who is the Regional Minister for the Easter Baptist Association. we all very much enjoyed her visit and were challenged and encouraged by what she had to say. The service ended with Communion which Sheila had linked in with her sermon from a passage in the first chapter of 1 Corinthians concerning the cross of Christ.

In February we held our Church AGM when we received reports, from the people responsible, for the various activities of the church. Although the AGM is thought of as a rather formal affair, it was interesting to review the activities of 2010 and we were encouraged to continue during this year. At the meeting we also voted for the appointment of Church Officers and Deacons and also the appointment of the Auditor for this year.

On the 26th June we will be holding our Church Anniversary. The Baptist Church commenced in 1926 with a meeting at a house. In 1927 the Church was built and opened its doors for services. As to the number of years the church has existed depends on whether you base the time on the people meeting or the opening of the Church building! I leave it for you to consider. After the anniversary service we may enjoy sharing a meal in the hall as we did in 2010.

Roger Newton - Church Secretary



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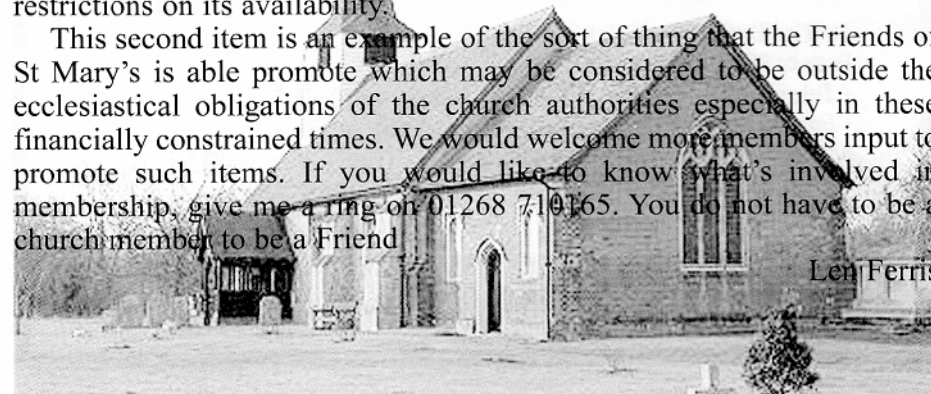
## **The Friends of St Mary's**

The new year has started with a successful event in the form of Isabel's Daffodill-Drop-In day in spite of the lack of Daffodils. Attendance started off slowly but by mid afternoon we were wondering where everybody going to sit. However space was found and the refreshment supplies remained more than adequate. The event raised £390.50 which was a very encouraging amount. Many thanks to all and especially to Isabel for making us so welcome

With the completion of the new annexe we are tempted to sit back and relax. However there is always something that needs doing. Our Church Architect has already pointed out that it's about time we repaired the floor boards under the old heavy chest at the back of the church. The chest which is unique in Essex, if not the country, was last moved about 30 or more years ago and I am told took eight men to lift it. When they put it down the floor boards underneath it collapsed. Yes it certainly is not right but I don't think it is likely to do any harm and is going to be an awkward and an expensive job to do that I am tempted to give it a low priority for another year.

One item which has a higher priority from the convenience point of view is the provision of a water supply that people tending graves can use. What we propose is the fitting of an outside water butt with a diverter to collect rain water from the roof. A tap would also be required which can be used for filling the water butt from the mains when there has been insufficient rain. Just a small item, but one that can cause a lot of upset when visiting a grave with a bunch of flowers and find there is no water to put them in. We did at one time have an outside tap but this was vandalised and as we are on a water meter we need to put some restrictions on its availability.

This second item is an example of the sort of thing that the Friends of St Mary's is able promote which may be considered to be outside the ecclesiastical obligations of the church authorities especially in these financially constrained times. We would welcome more members input to promote such items. If you would like to know what's involved in membership, give me a ring on 01268 710165. You do not have to be a church member to be a Friend



Len Ferris



# Singing Day

We would like to run another Singing Day in October, as the last one was such a huge success.

Unfortunately we need someone to play the piano and lead and organise the singing!

*If you know someone please contact me.*

Derek Jackson

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NIBS 237

Mondays to Saturdays

NS

NS = Not Saturdays

South Woodham Ferrers, Asda	0800	0900	1100	1300	1620
Wickford, Rail Station	0817	0917	1117	1317	1637
RAMSDEN HEATH, White Horse	0827	0927	1127	1327	1647
RAMSDEN BELLHOUSE, Glebe 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
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, Glebe Road		1023	1223	1423	1745
RAMSDEN HEATH, White Horse		1026	1226	1426	1748
Wickford, Rail Station		1036	1236	1436	1758
South Woodham Ferrers, Asda		1052	1252	1452	1813

NS

1818

1824

1831

1841

1845

1848

1858

1913

RAMSDEN HEATH - BILLERICAY  
Mondays to Fridays  
RAMSDEN HEATH, W. Hse., 0619 0647 0717 0747  
Billericay, Rail Stn., 0634 0702 0732 0802  
Billericay, Rail Stn., 1800 1829 1859 1929  
RAMSDEN HEATH, W. Hse., 1815 1844 1914 1944

Executive  
Minibuses 552

WICKFORD - RAMSDEN HEATH - CHELMSFORD

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Mondays to Saturdays

\* NS \* NS \* S

\* NS

NS

Wickford, Rail Station	0645	0735	0738	0855	0930	1055	1255	1455	1655	1855
RAMSDEN HEATH, White Horse	0655	0745	0749	0905	0941	1105	1305	1505	1705	1905
Galleywood, The Eagle	0719	0810	0813	0915	1005	1115	1315	1515	1715	1915
Chelmsford, Bus Station	0734	0827	0826	0929	1018	1129	1329	1529	1729	1927

NS

S

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\*

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NS

Chelmsford, Bus Station	....	....	0855	1055	1255	1455	1555	1655	1755	1855	1940
Galleywood, The Eagle	....	....	0908	1108	1308	1508	1608	1708	1808	1907	1952
RAMSDEN HEATH, White Hse.	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

S = Saturdays only

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

WICKFORD - CRAYS HILL - BILLERICAY - QUEENS PARK

NIBS 222

Mondays to Fridays

NSch

Billericay, Rail Stn.	0700	0800	0910	1000		1400	1500	1600	1700	1800
CRAYS HILL, Shep. & Dog	A	0710	0810	0920	1010		1410	1510	1610	1710
Wickford, opp. Swans	0625	0719	0835	0929	1019	Then	1419	1519	1619	1719
Wickford, Halls Cnr.	0627	0727	0837	0927	1027		1427	1527	1627	1727
CRAYS HILL, Shep. & Dog	0633	0733	0843	0933	1033	hourly	1433	1533	1633	1733
Billericay, Rail Stn.	0647	0747	0857	0947	1047	until	1447	1547	1647	1747
Queens Pk, Arlntn. Way	0653	0753	0905	0955	1055		1455	1555	1655	1753
Billericay, Rail Stn.	0700	0800	0910	1000	1100		1500	1600	1700	1800

Saturdays

Sundays NIBS 251

Wickford, Halls Cnr.	0723	0823	0929	1023	1123	1223	1323	1423	1523	1623	1723
CRAYS HILL, Shep. & Dog	0730	0831	0941	1031	1131	1231	1330	1430	1530	1630	1730
Billericay, Rail Stn.	0743	0846	0956	1046	1146	1246	1343	1443	1543	1643	1743
Queens Pk, Arln. Way	0750	0853	1003	1053	1153	1253	1350	1450	1550	1650	1750
Billericay, Rail Stn.	0755	0902	1012	1102	1202	1302	1355	1455	1555	1655	1755
CRAYS HILL, Shep. & Dog	0807	0915	1025	1115	1215	1315	1407	1507	1607	1707	1807
Wickford, Halls Cnr.	0812	0922	1032	1122	1222	1322	1412	1512	1612	1712	1812

NSch = Not School Days

Saturday journeys operate to and from The Wick

A = From Shotgate 0619

Sunday journeys operate through from Southend

B = To Shotgate arr. 1823

to Brentwood/Warley and vice versa

Whilst every care has been taken with the compilation of the above information, no responsibility can be accepted for inaccuracies



## Village Events

### MAY

<b>Saturday 7th</b>	Amble Ramble	10.30am starting from	St Mary's Church
<b>Saturday 14th</b>	St Mary's Spring Fair	11.00am - 2.00pm	Village Hall
<b>Saturday 14th</b>	Whist Drive	7.30pm	Village Hall
<b>Tuesday 17th</b>	AGM Parish Council	7.00pm	Village Hall

### JUNE

<b>Saturday 11th</b>	Whist Drive	7.30pm	Village Hall
<b>Saturday 18th</b>	Crunch	9.00am - 12 midday	Village Hall
<b>Saturday 18th</b>	Horticultural Summer Show	2.30pm	Village Hall
<b>Saturday 25th</b>	Summer Fete	12 midday	Village Hall
<b>Sunday 26th</b>	Baptist Church Anniversary	10.30am	Baptist Church

### JULY

<b>Tuesday 5th</b>	St Mary's Garden Party	2.00 - 5.00pm	Bramhill Orchard Ave
<b>Saturday 9th</b>	Whist Drive	7.30pm	Village Hall

### AUGUST

<b>Monday 8th</b>	Isabel's Garden Party	2.00 - 5.00pm	Bramhill Orchard Ave
<b>Saturday 13th</b>	Whist Drive	7.30pm	Village Hall
<b>Saturday 27th</b>	Art Show	10.00am - 4.00pm	Village Hall
<b>Sunday 28th</b>			
<b>Monday 29th</b>	Flower Festival	2.00 - 5.00pm	St Mary's Church
<b>Saturday 27th</b>		10.30am - 5.00pm	
<b>Sunday 28th</b>		10.30am - 5.00pm	
<b>Monday 29th</b>		10.30am - 5.00pm	

### SEPTEMBER

<b>Saturday 10th</b>	Horticultural Autumn Show	2.30pm	Village Hall
<b>Saturday 10th</b>	Whist Drive	7.30pm	Village Hall

### OCTOBER

<b>Saturday 8th</b>	Whist Drive	7.30pm	Village Hall
<b>Saturday 15th</b>	Harvest Supper details	01268 710428	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
Treasurer	- Derek Swan	710478

### Magazine

Editor	- Isabel Johnson	710428
Advertising	- Isabel Johnson	710428

### Badminton

Fridays 8pm - 11pm	- Tanzy Bailey	01277 625555
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### 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
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### Ladies Medau

Thursday 8pm	- Veronica Greenwood	01702 559914
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### Cubs

Wed 5.45pm - 7.15pm	- Janet Jeffree	710559
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### Scouts

Wed 7.30pm - 9.30pm except 2nd Wed in month		
	- Clive Jeffree	710559

### Baptist Church

Geoff Griggs		01245 471990
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### 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
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### Line Dancing

Every Monday 2.00pm - 3.00pm	Ken Dobson	710771
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### Essex County

Fortnightly Wednesday 4.20pm - 4.35pm		
after July 4th Fortnightly Tuesday 3.30pm - 4.00pm		

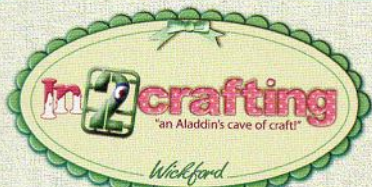
### Jump Ahead Preschool

Mon to Fri 9.30am	- Carol Parker	01268 712930
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### Website

www.ramsdenbellhouse.info		
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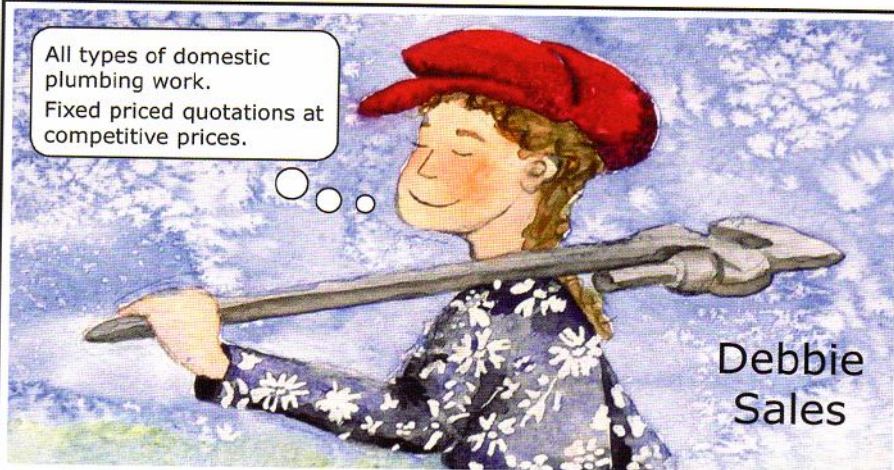


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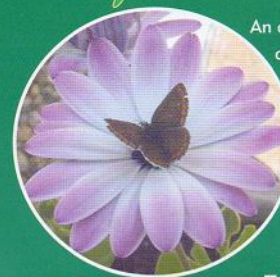
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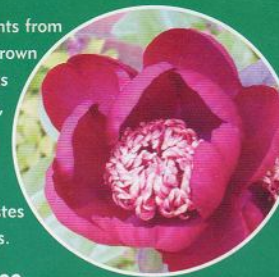
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