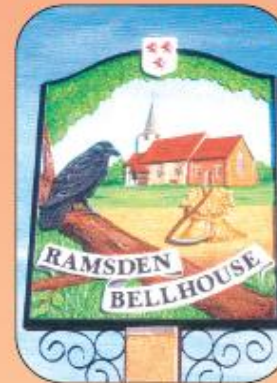


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Village Magazine Summer 2014



*Steam Train No. 70000 "Britannia" Seen from the village as it
travelled along the railway line on Saturday 15 March.
Its route was Southend to Salisbury.*

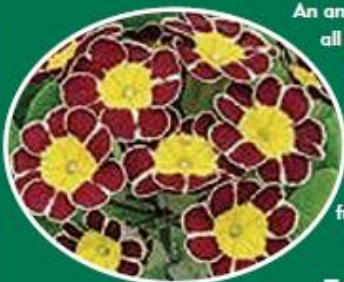
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A Word from the Editor

In Spring and early Summer, Ramsden Bellhouse looks at its best as the gardens emerge from winter gloom (and the wettest winter on record) it is a pleasure to walk (try it!) through the Village and see the flowers and trees all fresh with new growth. Newly mown lawns, with their accompanying fresh smell delight the eye. Of course, there are "buts" and eyesores - rubbish, things thrown from uncaring motorists, garden rubbish bins left out all week, and other things I will not mention. Is your property a pleasure to the passer by?

Thanks again to Wendy for her beautiful front cover picture, and the fascinating insight into "bee life." *More individual articles please.*

I'd like to extend a welcome to all new residents who have recently moved into our Village. When you have had time to think after the trauma of moving, I'd like to tell you that you have a very active Village hall here. It offers many activities, which are advertised at the back of this magazine and everyone will be welcomed. We have two churches St Mary's and the Baptist Church. Again you will be welcome at both. Our Village Shop is a gem with excellent and friendly service. The Fox and Hounds is our local pub. Why go halfway across Essex when all these facilities are in our Village. New blood in all these areas of Village Life is needed. Please don't just live here - help create a true Village atmosphere - bring new life and ideas to give us new vitality, but for my part I ask do not turn us into suburbia.

Thanks to all involved in the production and delivery of this magazine. Copy for the next by September 20th, either to me or preferably email to bryan.diggory@sky.com. If you set your copy on a PC and have use of the internet, then please do send your copy to Bryan as this saves a lot of time. Please note - you do not then have to give me a copy. I will get this from Bryan and then edit it.

Isabel Johnson



Advertising Rates

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Chairmans Report

At last the Sun is now out and there appears to be an end to the flooding. We can put our wellies away and sit in the garden watching the birds and the flowers grow.

At the village hall I hope to get the kitchen re-furbished this year, with serving hatches to both halls, new work surfaces and cupboards all round.

The hall bookings are in good order although there is still a vacancy on a Friday evening in the old hall. Is there a someone out there who could use this vacancy, if there is then give the booking secretary a ring and I am sure that an agreement can be made. There are a few afternoon vacancies in both halls so again contact us for conditions. If you have a regular booking then you will be able to use a page on our web site at no extra cost.

Since the last magazine there have been three major events at the hall, the Bazaar, village hall A.G.M. and the History of Ramsden

The Bazaar just before Christmas proved to be a success with lots of stalls, a visit from Father Christmas also children's fancy dress competition and other events.

The village hall A.G.M. on Sunday 19th Jan. also went well, with the presentation of the years events and the financial affairs by the management. The presentation of the charity cheque for last year to the Parkinson Society for £2275 was made and the vote for the next years charity which was won by the Essex Air Ambulance.

The last event was the History of Ramsden. This yearly event was organised by Isabel Johnson with a band of helpers, they put in a lot of effort for which the hall is grateful. For those who are interested in local history this is the event for you, maps, photographs, documents are all there, a very good event. If you have missed it then come along next year.

C. Jeffree

Ramsden Bellhouse Village Hall Chairman
ramsdenbellhouse.info

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Village Hall Social Events

When this magazine goes out the St George's Day Breakfast would have taken place. I hope lots of you attended and enjoyed the good food and friendly atmosphere.

The fete happens on the 28th June, hoping for a nice sunny day where the children can enjoy the bouncy castle and the football shootout. Plenty of fun and craft stalls, barbecue, refreshments and cakes for sale.

If anyone is interested in having a stall at the cost of £10.00 please contact me at 01268 710250 or annwellborne@btopenworld.com. The Management Committee with help, work very hard to make these events a success but we are always short of help. If you have a few hours to spare and would like to get involved please contact me on the above. In particular if there is anyone out there who would like to have a face painting stall?

Ann Wellborne, Social Secretary

Fun Whist

Welcome, everyone, to the Summer issue of the Ramsden Bellhouse magazine.

It is a joy to see some sunshine at last, following the wet and miserable weather we have had until recently. Maybe as a reflection of the weather, everyone has battened down the hatches and stayed warm and cosy in front of their TVs on the winter Saturdays since the last issue of the magazine! This action has severely curtailed the numbers attending the whist evenings! For anyone who might have been interested in learning the game, this would have been an ideal time to come along and try it out, while so few were attending. However, we are hoping for beginners and players to come along and swell the numbers for this long running Village activity. The ideal is around seven tables, but the more the merrier! Come and join us on the second Saturday of the month, 7.15 start. Your £3.00 enters you into the raffle and also gives you a welcome cuppa and biscuits in the interval. Can't be bad!

Angela Hodivala



Lemonade Scones

If you think you can't make scones give this recipe a try!

Ingredients

12oz/300g Self raising flour (sifted)

2oz/50g Caster sugar

125ml Double cream

125ml Lemonade (not diet)

40ml (2 tablespoons) milk

Method

Pre heat the oven to 220C/gas 7. Place the flour and sugar in a large bowl. Add the cream and lemonade and mix to a soft dough. Turn out onto a lightly floured surface and knead lightly until smooth. Lightly roll the dough to a thickness of about 2cm. Use a 6cm round cutter to cut out 8 scones. Place these on an ungreased baking tray. Brush tops with either milk or beaten egg. Bake for 10-15 minutes until lightly browned. Cool and serve with your favourite jam.

Joan Wright

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The Friends of St Mary's

The year has started with a vengeance. We had planned to carry out modifications to the church porch timbers on the south west side which were suffering from some wet rot caused by a fault in the detail design of the porch. The structure, although not a danger was best altered before it became one. We therefore obtained tenders for the work and placed an order for it to be done in the new year. Unfortunately as soon as the order was placed the weather changed from damp to very wet and it was decided to delay the work until the timbers dried out.

Having decided to delay the start of the work on the porch we had a fall of an area of the ceiling plaster from above the stairs to the pulpit. Although preliminary examination indicated that there was no hazard from further falls of plaster it appeared that from the presence of what looked like beetle holes there could be a problem with Death Watch Beetle in one of the roof beams and a leak from rain water at the join of the chancel and nave roofs. The extent of the damage to the roof and ceiling of the chancel could only be determined by working from internal scaffolding with progressive removal of the roof tiles facilitating examination of the underlining chancel ceiling.

Specialist examination of the suspect beetle attack of the roof beam showed that the attack was not current and only required a minor amount of cosmetic work. The condition of the church timbers is covered by a 30 year guarantee from when the church timbers were all treated by Rentokil against Death Watch Beetle attack about 20 years ago.

We have so far obtained estimates for the cost of carrying out the necessary work to the church although due to the nature of the work it is not possible to cover all eventualities and reasonable contingencies have to be allowed for. We are proceeding and planning to carry out the work during the summer months. We do not anticipate any major delays to our church services whilst the work is carried out. We will also try applying for financial help as our emergency funds will be somewhat depleted by the cost of the work.

We are currently planning some of our fund raising activities with Quizzes, and a concert in the Autumn. We will also be opening the church again on wet days throughout the summer months so that you will be able to watch the progress. Keep your eyes open on the notice boards for more information.

Len Ferris

A Bee-Friendly Garden for Spring

On these first warm and sunny days of spring, bees will appear in our gardens once again. I'm a beekeeper - and so I'm keen to create a truly bee-friendly garden so that when my honeybees fly on warm days they will find plenty to forage on. Flowers planted for honeybees are often loved by butterflies, bumblebees, and other pollinators, too - so I'm looking forward to a garden buzzing and humming with life.

Honeybees are facing different threats, from pesticides to the destruction of the habitats where they forage. Government policies are needed to protect our bees, of course, but I can also do something on a small scale in my garden, by not using pesticides and by buying flowers that haven't been treated with pesticides, either. I can also plant flowers that produce plenty of pollen and nectar (bee-food) for my honeybees to take back to the hives.

In early spring, the bees will enjoy snowdrops, winter aconites, hellebores and crocuses. They will love mahonia, viburnum, and the herb, rosemary. Among the trees and hedgerows they will seek out catkins and blackthorn blossom. By April, the colonies have built up, and the bees will be foraging on blossom from fruit trees and the flowers on horse chestnuts. They will also love grape hyacinths, wallflowers and clematis montana. They will look for wild flowers as well, in particular dandelions, usually considered a weed, but a favourite bee-flower. Since becoming a beekeeper, I'm not so quick to mow these down! Butterflies and other pollinators love dandelions, too.

It's no surprise that bees are drawn to yellow spring flowers, as yellow is a colour they can see. They can also, like us, see blue and green, but they can't see red. When they forage on red flowers such as field poppies, they see pigments that reflect ultraviolet (a colour we can't see, of course) and the colour of the pollen they collect from field poppies is dark blue.

The colour of pollen varies and so when bees bring pollen back to the hive they create a rainbow of colours on the comb. When bees are foraging, pollen becomes stuck to the hairs on their bodies - and while some of this is transferred to other flowers, the bees will comb the rest of the pollen from their hairs and pack it into the pollen baskets found on their hind legs. So, by watching the bees return to the hive with loaded pollen baskets and by glancing at my pollen-colour chart, I can tell which flowers the bees have been visiting.

Bees also need access to water and so I'll make sure that they find this in my garden. And on a warm day I'll spring clean the hives, replacing

old comb with new. Good hygiene will help keep bee diseases at bay.

I'm sure my bees will be happy in my garden this spring, as they'll find plenty to interest them there. Now I'm planning a bee-friendly garden for the rest of the year, too.

Wendy Swift



Dog Training

This year has started very well with lots of new members, the puppy classes have gone from strength to strength once again under the tuition of Kim Rogers and myself helping Kim when the class is full. This class starts at 7.15pm - 7.45pm.

Our recent progress night went very smoothly thanks to Kim and Debbie, Sandie, Len and myself and of course all those that entered. The people and dogs that entered the pre-beginner class did extremely well, and they should be very proud of themselves and their dogs as I am as their trainer.

Our open show for this year has been booked for the 27th September to be held at the Crays Hill open space, London Road, everyones help is needed to run this show. If you can offer your help please let Rita or Len know thank you.

Tuesday night members please remember it is a requirement of your being able to come on Tuesdays that you help at the show. Please also note that guest trainer evenings start at 7.30 prompt please try to arrive on time as it is felt that too many people are arriving late which is rather rude when the trainer has already started and a number of you turn up and try to find seats, etc.

For new members our AGM will be held at the end of May. Other news and dates can be found on our website rbdtc.webs.com. Please join the website as members so you can put any points you wish to make forward to the committee.

Rita Barber - Secretary

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Scouts Report

The scout troop has been taking part in many different activities in the last few months. We have held a number of out nights including a four mile hike, a night cooking under the stars and games at Thriftwood campsite in Brentwood, swimming at Riverside in Chelmsford which enabled many scouts to complete stages of the swimming badge, an evening of climbing at Belchamps campsite in Hawkwell, Quasar in Rayleigh and a training evening at the golf driving range in Rawreth.

We have also been working on a number of badges including the chef's badge that involves planning menus, discussing storage and preparation of food and cooking a main course and dessert, work also continues on the electronics and photography badges.

Scouts also took part in the Chinese New Year celebrations, and made kites, took part in a quiz, played games and made models all relating to China. We also had a dark night where all activities are carried out in the dark with the aid of torches only. They made Marshmallow snowmen, cardboard modelling, swamp board racing and Christmas decorations.

Another popular event is the annual scary night where we decorated the hall with webs, spiders and skeletons and had a spooky night.

The scouts also held an 'It's a Knockout Challenge in aid of the village Hall charity the Wickford Parkinson's Society.

A full program is arranged each week and other activities we have held in the hall include, woggle making, balloon challenge, tying knots, model making, firework safety, mapping, and mini raft building. Sport is always popular and we have been running many challenges over the last few months including basketball, volleyball and football cricket

The scouts attended the Remembrance Day service at the hall where they laid a poppy wreath made by themselves.

The numbers at scouts remain constant and we meet each Wednesday from 7.30 to 9.30. The age group is between the ages of ten and a half and fourteen. If you would like to find out more about the scouts please

contact Chris on 01277 652337 or e mail
jean@jeanmaker.wanadoo.co.uk



Cubs Report

The number of cubs has been gradually rising over the last year, at the present time there is 23 in the pack. We have had a busy term so far, working on two of the challenge badges. Cubs work towards six challenge badges during their time as cub scouts. If they gain all six challenge badges, they can then start work on the Chief Scouts silver award.

Some of our Wednesday evening activities this term included a visit from a local young lady who taught the cubs' aerobics and a visit to a golf range for a golf lesson. Both these activities were for the fitness challenge. They have also made a Chinese dragon for Chinese New Year.

Eighteen cubs joined a Wickford pack at their HQ for a sleepover. They enjoyed a camp fire, played games and watched a film during the evening. It was about 2 am before the last cub was overcome by sleep.

Now we are looking forward to some nice summer weather for outdoor activities and our summer camp. This year we have booked to go to Broadstone Warren in East Sussex. The cubs will be going to camp by coach, which will no doubt cause great excitement.

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The Christmas Visitor



Tilly came to visit us,
She came on Christmas Day.
And with her came sweet chaos
As she settled down to play.

At first, explore the territory,
Each cupboard she must view.
The Christmas dinner smells quite good,
Have a quick look down the loo.

And then there is the Christmas Tree,
Dismantle it seems fun.
Tilly shows her football skills
With baubles on the run.

And now its time to have a nap,
That cubby hole looks right.

Lets curl around the telephone,
And sleep here all the night!

Boxing day, here's something new,
Let's pat this bright red light!
And it responds with sounds so loud,
And shouts "Are you alright"?

Let's pat it once again for fun
Its such a pretty sign.
The household is alerted now
She's called my "Panic Line"!!

"So sorry that we called you,
Mum's fine, we'll tell you that.
I'm afraid this very urgent call
Was made by our new cat!!"



Isabel Johnson



Horticultural

Like all gardeners I see the weather changing not like years ago when you used to know what season it was. The one I just can't wait for is Winter-to-Spring.

As I write this it has arrived on my plot, first the snowdrops, crocuses, primroses and daffodils soon to follow, what joy!

Our society is also looking ahead with several new members, welcome to you all. In November we had our AGM a new Chairman was elected

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(or coerced) as Len Ferris stepped down after many years of valued service.

The Beetle Drive also held in November was a great success and we are holding another one on the 3rd May, we hope to see many of you there.

January started the year with a talk on 'Essex Village Signs' and February 'My Garden' by Badger Price, always a popular speaker. We have a change to our programme this year, two mini shows being held on Friday nights (see programme). The Summer show is on the 28th June and the Autumn show is on the 13th September, both unchanged.

We have several new speakers this year, the quiz night, garden visit and the shows. Not forgetting the hut which opened on 2nd March, so lots to look forward to.

The monthly meetings are held on the third Monday of the month at 8pm. Past, present and new members are always welcome.

Marion Shillum



Baptist Church

Church Services: Every Sunday at 10.30am (Communion is normally on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month). An informal "Drop In" is held in the Church Hall every Monday from 10.30am. Please Drop in one Monday, you will be very welcome

In the Village Magazine for winter 2013 I told how our new Minister Revd Jim Hamilton had his Induction Service during July 2013 and how pleased we were that we now have a new Pastor.

Since Jim has been our Pastor several changes have taken place in our church. The most noticeable has been the audio visual equipment we now have for use in services which projects the words of our hymns, songs and readings on the wall at the front on the church. Also DVDs can be used in services when appropriate. These have been used successfully at Parade services with the scouts and on other occasions.

On the 15th June we held an event called "Tea at the Ritz". The function was planned and organised by a team of ladies from the church as a ladies only afternoon tea event, with a Christian message supplied later in the afternoon led by Pauline, Jim's wife. Some 50 ladies enjoyed afternoon tea in a beautifully decorated hall. Another "Tea" is to be held

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this year, also in June, on Saturday the 7th in the afternoon.

On the 12th October we had a Quiz Night in the church hall. It was well attended and the quiz was split into two by an illustrated talk by representatives of the charity "Reach out to the child South Africa". This resulted in a suggestion that we give contributions to build a house for a young man whose name is Phumlani. He is at present living at Mseleni Childrens Home in South Africa. He was crippled following a car accident when he was a small boy. The appeal money was raised in full, thanks to the enthusiasm of everyone in the church.

In November the yearly Remembrance service was held in the village hall which Jim led and at which Rev Stephen Robertson spoke. The service was well attended and a good number of the scouts were there as well.

We held our Christmas Carol Service on the 22nd December followed by festive treats. The service was also well attended and was a great celebration of Christ's birth in Bethlehem.

In February this year we had a joint service with our friends from St Mary's. The service was held in the Baptist church.

Sadly, on the 3rd March, we held a 'Thanksgiving Service' in memory of our dear friend and member, Freda Bishop. The service was led by Geoffrey Griggs and Jim Hamilton. It was an uplifting service which was much appreciated by Freda's family and those present in the church. Freda will be much missed and our love goes out to her family at this time.

Very recently, on the 8th March, we held a "Men's Curry Night". This was a first for us and I suspect it will be repeated at some future date. We had a number of visitors which was encouraging. Jon Stanard spoke after the meal and as well as some jokes also referred to his faith in Christ and how important that was.

Our Sunday service is held at 10.30am each week. Please come along and give us a try. You would be very welcome.

Roger Newton, Church Secretary



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Line Dancing

Another year has passed since my last note and the line dancing club is still enjoying our weekly Monday afternoon meetings at the Village Hall 2 pm. one hour £2.00. (except Bank Holidays).

Our excellent teachers Lynn and Jean put us through our paces to a great range of music from Kenny Rogers to Rod Stuart. Everyone is welcome, if you prefer, come down and watch one of our sessions and decide if you would like to join our happy band.

We do perform each year at the fete in June and Isabel's garden party in early August, so again come and watch and see if this very pleasant pastime is for you.

Ann Wellborne



Ballroom Dancing

This spring marks the first anniversary of the sad passing of Joan Telkman who had run the Ballroom Dancing club for over 20 years. There are still times when we miss Joan and the effort she put in to keep the club running, arrange the party nights and brew the half-time cuppa. But we decided in the words of Sir Brucie, to 'keeeep dancing', and that is just what we have done. We have welcomed a few new members and recently we have been learning some sequence dances (those that know how, teaching those that don't). So now we can be seen to be Mayfair Quickstepping or Catherine Waltzing in (almost) fluid harmony on a Sunday evening. But we do have room for more members - if you are interested then please come along on any Sunday evening from 7.45.

We are looking forward to our Square Dance on Saturday 17th May in aid of the Village Hall's chosen charity - the Essex Air Ambulance. This will be the 3rd year that we have held a square dance as our charity event, but the previous two years have proven to be such a success, both the fun during the evening and the amount raised for charity, that it seemed the best thing to do. For us regular Sunday dancers, it's a chance to forget the slow-quick-quick-slow, and employ a more 'Yee-ha' or 'do-si-do' style. Tickets are available by phoning 01277 625556 or 01268 761805. Please see the poster on the noticeboard in the old hall for further details.

Barry Gardiner

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Kitchen at Christmas Bazaar



Line Dancing Christmas Party



Website Team at History of Ramsden



Dog Club at Christmas Bazaar



Scouts serve Refreshments at Christmas Bazaar



War Time Exhibition at History of Ramsden



History of Ramsden



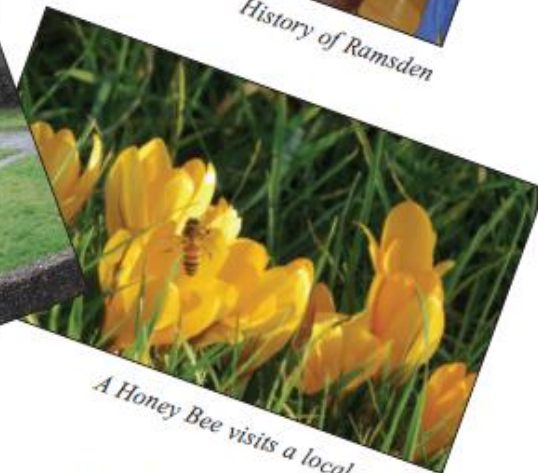
Father Christmas and the Fancy Dress Competition at Christmas Bazaar



Table Tennis Sunday Mornings



Present War Memorial



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References Available

Bygone Years



Where is it?

Alice Ray is delivering milk from a Farm in Park Lane Ramsden Heath around 1920. Church Road is unmade. Whereabouts in Ramsden Bellhouse is she?

(Answer on page 33)



History of Ramsden Exhibition 2014

February 23rd and 24th saw the "History of Ramsden" once more at the Village Hall. It was well attended though sadly most people came from outside this Village.

Geoff and Jo came from 'Wickford Community Archives', to promote the local history of this area, and Barbara and Steve promoted the Village Web Site, and offered copies of the exhibits at very reasonable prices.

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the 1914-18 War, there was a special display of named photos of some of the men who fought during this, and the 2nd World War. The framed list of those who lost their lives in both Wars was also on display. Together with many wartime "objects"

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from both wars. Various options for the proposed new War Memorial were on view.

I must particularly thank Frank Fisher for his continued support and his extensive knowledge of the area, freely shared with those so interested.

The usual band of volunteers gave their usual efficient help, advertising, transporting, putting out and away, making cakes and serving them, welcoming visitors and looking after "Memory Lane Museum". Thanks also to Anthony Gouldsmith for displaying his lovely veteran car, and to Linda, a new recruit to our team. Together we made £304 for Village Hall Funds. My daughter was extremely impressed by the quick and efficient way everything was cleared up, each person knowing exactly what to do without fuss or instruction. Thank you all.

Isabel Johnson



St Mary's Church

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

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

The Summer Saturday opening of the Church for visitors, from 10am to 4pm, will continue until October. Whilst this opening is a condition of grants towards repairs received from English Heritage, we hope that Villagers (or those just passing through) will take advantage of the chance to view our ancient building and the craftsmanship of several centuries, or merely to sit for a time of quiet meditation or perhaps a chat with the steward on duty. More important, though, is our Sunday opening at the service times above when we will be even more pleased to welcome you! The simple Family Service on the 4th Sunday in the month at 10.30am is a good starting point.

We continue to arrange joint activities with our friends at the Baptist Church - we share the same beliefs and aims, even if the form of our

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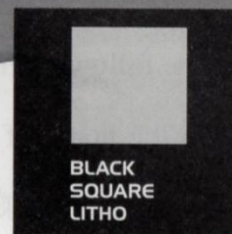
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services is different. Joint services will take place at the Baptist Church at 10.30am on the 13th July, and at St Mary's on 12th October (time to be arranged). On Remembrance Sunday, 9th November, our two Churches will, as usual, organise the Service in the Village Hall at 10.45am with the laying of the wreath and the Cubs and Scouts on parade. On Monday mornings, a joint coffee morning takes place at the Emmanuel Hall at the Baptist Church, from 10.30am to noon, and anybody is invited to drop in.

On 27th September, St Mary's ran a coffee morning in the Church in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support as part of the World's Biggest Coffee Morning. Although numbers attending were a bit down on previous years, the event still raised £268.

On 5th October a Concert of sacred music was provided by the choir of the Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church, Billericay. This is a choir with considerable experience, having performed widely across Europe, and we are most grateful to them for giving up their time to raise a total of £578. for St. Mary's funds.

Our Autumn Fair on the 16th November raised £449. Unfortunately, due to the continuing decline in the numbers supporting our Spring and Autumn Fairs, and the comparatively low return against the considerable burden on a relatively small number of people to run them, it has been decided not to hold them this year.

Quiz Nights have been less regular because of health problems, but our Charity Quiz on behalf of the Village Charity, the Parkinson's Society, did take place on 26th October, raising £256. Together with a collection in Church, £323. was paid over as St Mary's contribution to the 2013 appeal, and a further donation of £250 was included from the family of Church member Ralph Nurse, a Parkinson's sufferer, who had died earlier in the year. A further Quiz Night in aid of Church Funds, took place on 14th March and raised £327. It is hoped that one or two more Quizzes will be held in the year, but no dates have yet been decided.

With the cancellation of the Spring and Autumn Fairs, other means of raising money to help meet the cost of the unpredictable maintenance bills which crop up with a building of such antiquity. The following have so far been arranged:

A barbecue from 3 to 6pm on Saturday 24th May at the home of the Goldstein family at "Roothings" Ramsden Park Road. Adults £5. Children under 10 £2.50. Telephone 01268 710285. Advance booking will help assess catering needs.



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A Strawberry Tea on Saturday 21st June, 2 to 4pm at the Village Hall.
A Concert by the Southend Vox Choir in the Church at 7.30pm on 26th July with cheese and wine in the interval.

A Beetle Drive is planned in the Autumn on a date to be fixed.

Our biggest fund raising event is the Flower Festival at the August Bank Holiday. The Church will be open on Saturday 23rd 2 to 5pm (light refreshments available) Sunday 24th and Monday 25th 11am to 5pm - stalls etc. and refreshments including Ploughman's Lunches. Songs of Praise on Sunday at 4pm. Your support for these events will be much appreciated.

Alan Pegrum



Remember the War

In the Winter Issue of this magazine we informed you of the desire to replace the existing War memorial and refurbish the Remembrance Garden in order that it becomes a fitting expression of our gratitude to those who served and sacrificed in the both World Wars.

We also invited and sought opinions of the residents to the form this new memorial might take, including confirmation of the desire for the project to proceed rather than do nothing.

We are pleased to advise that from the feedback received to date, without exception there has been total support for the project to proceed. Consultation will continue and residents will be given the opportunity to discuss their views over the coming months at village hall events and at a specific open day.

The current status on the project includes concept plans which have been developed in order to identify the funds that will be required for the construction of the New Memorial and refurbishment of the Remembrance Garden.

The Ramsden Bellhouse Memorial Committee are investigating potential funding opportunities in addition to those from the Village Hall and Parish Council, rather than relying solely on contributions from the community in order that ideally the memorial and garden can be completed in time for Remembrance Sunday.

I hope that next time you are at the village hall you will take the time to look at the existing memorial and garden and understand more fully what we are hoping to achieve.

If you would like to become involved, make a contribution or have any comments you would like to make please pass on your thoughts and suggestion by email to ramsdenbellhouse@btinternet.com

Ramsden Bellhouse Memorial Committee

STOP PRESS

Community Investment Fund Grant Application for the Memorial and Remembrance Garden has been approved by Basildon Council.



VILLAGE FETE

Autumn Flower Show

Saturday 28th June at Midday

Entries for Flower Show

by 10.30am Saturday Morning

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Bowls Club

We are still bowling along, sessions in the village hall on Monday evenings 7.30pm, Wednesday mornings 10.00am, Friday afternoons 1.30pm

Our club winners for 2013 - Congratulations! Club single champion - Peter Debenham Runner up - Roy Richards Club Double champions - Tom & Carol Dines Runners up - Rusi & Angela Hodivala, Monday evening taken over the year - Tom Dines Friday afternoon taken over the year - Tom & Sylvia Ealham

Arranged league games are being played, results not finalised as yet.

The Rooks, Ravens and Robins took part playing for the Hurcock Cup in January - alas no wins for the teams.

Our open afternoon for interested participants to have a go and experience bowling for themselves proved to be highly successful. As a result we have some new members. This now means for Wednesday morning sessions we have a waiting list! However there are places to fill on Monday evenings and Friday afternoons. Please contact Club Secretary, phone number below.

Sincere thanks everyone who supported the Christmas Fayre with generous donations, home made cakes and pickles. There was so much ! The raffle was sheer indulgence. Unfortunately for me I didn't buy the winning ticket. The club raised £388.15p, well done !



Venue for Christmas lunch 2013 was a local restaurant Beauvoir Arms a very pleasant event, an opportunity to relax and forget the dishes. Thanks Malcolm for organising this event.

The 'roll up' evenings to date have been well attended, the same with the league social evening. This provided an opportunity for the league team members to compete against one another also catch up and exchange 'news'.

Should you be interested in joining our bowls club please contact Angela Hodivala 01268 710619 .

Bye for now Eileen Smith.



Answer to Where is it?

Alice is at the top of the hill. The photo looks North towards the shop.



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Baptist Church

As I write this, Easter is still a few weeks away but the lovely spring weather has arrived (however temporarily)! I find it quite ironic to discover that as far as we know Jesus never told His followers to remember or celebrate His birth - yet Christmas has become such an enormous celebration when churches have larger congregations than any other time of year. On the other hand we do know that Jesus did tell His followers to remember His death - hence the fact that most mainstream churches hold communion services regularly. Should we make more of Easter then? I think so. To me it is always so special to meet in church on Good Friday to remember what Jesus endured for us through His suffering and death on the cross, making it possible for us to find forgiveness, hope and peace. It is so good that it doesn't end there however because on Easter Sunday we met again to celebrate the fact that it was Friday, but Sunday came - and on Sunday came resurrection.

I have had the privilege of visiting Israel on five occasions, and each time one of the highlights has been the visit to the Garden Tomb in Jerusalem. Tradition says that the site of the Calvary and the Garden is where the Church of the Holy Sepulchre now stands, but I find the sight of the Garden Tomb much more convincing, situated as it is near an rocky cliff face that looks like the shape of a skull. The tomb dates back to New Testament times and of course it is empty. If you go in to have a look and then turn to leave you see these words written on the inside of the door, "He is not here, for He has risen!" I believe that to be true - do you? Something amazing must have happened to transform a group of broken, frightened, grieving people into a group that transformed the world and changed the course of history. They were willing to go anywhere and do anything - even pay the ultimate price - to persuade people to believe that Jesus is alive and can change people's lives.

He changed my life and so for me Easter is so special - an appreciation of Jesus death, and a celebration of His resurrection. I hope Easter is just as special for you.

Jim Hamilton

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Teddies for Tragedies Essex Branch

In the last Village Magazine I wrote that I had slowed things down a bit due to Alan's heart attacks, but in September I got into the act by falling headfirst down my stairs which resulted in a badly sprained wrist, enormous bruises, too many to count and a broken neck. I don't do things by half!! This resulted in me having to spend two weeks in hospital and to wear a neck brace constantly for 12 weeks. However, as I write this I am still in the neck brace as my neck had not healed by the 12 weeks and I am due to see the Spinal Specialist at the beginning of April so fingers crossed I hope healing has taken place or I face an operation.



During this time I have managed to keep the charity work going with the help of family and friends. 2624 teddies have been distributed and I was delighted to get a call in December from one of my contacts who had already sent out 4 containers of food and much needed items to the Philippines and was sending a 5th container and wanted teddies for the traumatised children. I was able to give him just under 800 teddies and 58 clowns. Many blankets, jumpers and many margarine boxes filled with toiletries went to Kosovo and Zambia.

This winter, due to my condition I wasn't able to fill all the shoeboxes which I usually do, but all the items I had collected went to Blythwood Care and their volunteers filled them for me. Many people from the Village and our two Churches gave me their filled boxes which went to Eastern Europe giving much joy to children and adults alike.

I cannot express enough my gratitude and thanks to everybody in the Village and surrounding area for the love and support given to Alan and I over these difficult 6 months. How fortunate we are to live in a village like this.

Wishing you a wonderful summer. God Bless.

Audrey Pegrum MBE Essex Branch Organiser



Personal Page

The Billericay and District Branch, Parkinson's UK, is absolutely delighted to have the opportunity of thanking everyone at RBVHA for their fantastic donation of £2,275. All this money will go towards supporting people with Parkinson's and their carers, friends and family in the Billericay and district areas. It's kindness and support such as this which makes everything worthwhile your donation will make a difference. Thank you all so very, very much.

With best wishes, Pauline Lansdale, *Media and Publicity Officer*

In Memory of:

Reg Swan, who died 30th March in Spain. He lived for many years in 'Grasmere' Church Road, and was an active member of the Horticultural Society and St. Mary's Church. Our sympathy goes out to the Swan family.

Congratulations to:

My great granddaughter Elizaeth Green aged 8 years, who passed an audition for "Three Counties Youth Ballet" and danced in their performances in Hertford Theatre. I am so proud of you.

Isabel Johnson

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South Woodham, Rail Station	08.04	09.04	11.04	13.04	16.24
Woodham Rd, Opposite Butterfly Farm	08.07	09.08	11.08	13.08	16.28
Rettendon, TurnPike Comer	08.11	09.13	11.13	13.13	16.33
Runwell, Church	08.14	09.16	11.16	13.16	16.36
Wickford, Rail Station	08.17	09.19	11.19	13.19	16.39
Brock Hill, Downham Road	08.21	09.23	11.23	13.23	16.43
Ramsden Heath, White Horse	08.27	09.29	11.29	13.29	16.49
Ramsden Bellhouse, Glebe Rd	08.30	09.32	11.32	13.32	16.52
Crays Hill, Shepherd & Dog	08.34	09.36	11.36	13.36	16.56
Noak Bridge, South Wash Road	08.38	09.41	11.41	13.41	17.01
Miles Gray Road, Opposite B&Q	08.40	09.43	11.43	13.43	17.03
Festival Leisure Park	---	09.47	11.47	13.47	17.07
Ghyllgrove, Opposite Audley Way	---	09.51	11.51	13.51	17.11
Basildon, Bus Station Stand R	08.48	09.55	11.55	13.55	17.15
Basildon Hospital	08.55	---	---	---	17.20

NS

Basildon Hospital	---	---	---	17.25	18.25
Basildon, Bus Station Stand R	10.00	12.00	14.00	17.30	18.30
Ghyllgrove, Audley Way	10.04	12.04	14.04	17.34	18.34
Festival Leisure Park	10.08	12.08	14.08	17.38	18.38
Miles Gray Road, B&Q	10.12	12.12	14.12	17.42	18.42
Noak Bridge, South Wash Road	10.14	12.14	14.14	17.46	18.46
Crays Hill, Opposite Shepherd & Dog	10.19	12.19	14.19	17.49	18.49
Ramsden Bellhouse, Glebe Rd	10.23	12.23	14.23	17.53	18.53
Ramsden Heath, White Horse	10.26	12.26	14.26	17.56	18.56
Brock Hill, Downham Road	10.32	12.32	14.32	18.02	19.02
Wickford, Rail Station	10.36	12.36	14.36	18.06	19.06
Runwell, Quart Pot	10.39	12.39	14.39	18.09	19.08
Rettendon, TurnPike Comer	10.42	12.42	14.42	18.12	19.12
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South Woodham, Asda	10.55	12.55	14.55	18.25	19.25

Key: NS Not Saturdays

Village Events

MAY

Saturday 3rd	Beetle Drive	7.00pm	Village Hall
Saturday 10th	Whist Drive	7.15pm	Village Hall
Saturday 17th	Square Dance	7.45pm	Village Hall
Tickets available 01277 625556 or 01268 761805			
Saturday 24th	Barbeque	3.00pm - 6.00pm	Roothings Ramsden Park Road

JUNE

Saturday 7th	Crunch	9.00am - Midday	Village Hall
Saturday 14th	Whist Drive	7.15pm	Village Hall
Saturday 21st	Strawberry Tea	2.00pm - 4.00pm	Village Hall
Saturday 28th	Fete & Horticultural Show	Midday	Village Hall

JULY

Saturday 12th	Whist Drive	7.15pm	Village Hall
Saturday 26th	Church Concert	7.30pm	St Mary's Church
(Southend Vox Choir)			

AUGUST

TBA	Isabel's Garden Party 710428		Bramhill Orchard Avenue
Saturday 9th	Whist Drive	7.15pm	Village Hall
Saturday 23rd	Flower Festival	2.00pm - 5.00pm	St Mary's Church
Sunday 24th	Flower Festival	11.00am - 5.00pm	St Mary's Church
(Including Songs of Praise 4.00pm)			
Monday 25th	Flower Festival	11.00am - 5.00pm	St Mary's Church

SEPTEMBER

Saturday 13th	Horticultural Autumn Show	2.30pm	Village Hall
Saturday 13th	Whist Drive	7.15pm	Village Hall

OCTOBER

Saturday 11th	Whist Drive	7.15pm	Village Hall
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Village Directory

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	- Karen Pearce	01268 711227
Dog Training	Monday (except 3rd in month)		
	7.15pm - 10pm	- Rita Barber	01702 231189
St Mary's Church	Church Wardens	- Beryl Clements	01245 601298
		- Len Ferris	710165
Horticultural	3rd Monday in the month except July, August and December	- Joan Lewis	710893
Ladies Medau	Thursday 8pm	- Veronica Greenwood	01702 559914
Cubs	Wed 5.45pm - 7.15pm	- Patrick Smith	07838 252963
Scouts	Wed 7.30pm - 9.30pm except 2nd Wed in month		
		- Patrick Smith	07838 252963
Baptist Church	Roger Newton		01268 710259
Bowls	Mon 7.30pm		
	Wed 10am		
	Fri 1.30pm	- Angela Hodivala	01268 710619
Dancing Club	Every Sunday 7.30pm - 10.30pm		
	General Dancing	- Barry Gardiner	07702 233898
Whist Drive	Roy Richards (see Village Events)		710669
Line Dancing	Every Monday 2.00pm - 3.00pm	Ken Dobson	710771
Essex County			
Library Mobile Van	Fortnightly Tuesday 3.30pm - 4.00pm		
Bellhouse Preschool	Mon to Fri 9.30am	-	07881 448686
Website	www.ramsdenbellhouse.info		
Ramsden Parish Council	Karen Plumridge Clerk		01245 400628

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