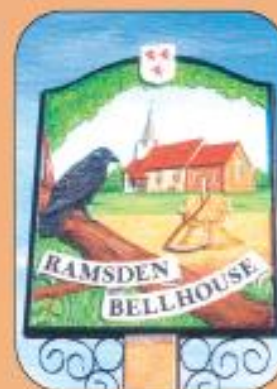


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Summer 2015**



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## A Word from the Editor

**T**hank you to all our regular contributors, who sent in their magazine entries on time. This has been a record, which I hope will be repeated as it saves on both my time and phone bill. I was disappointed that no-one sent me their opinions on the rural character of this Village, so after the controversial poem I have included in this edition, I shall conclude the subject is of no interest.

So what shall we write about? Nature and the countryside is very close to my heart, and at this time of year, nature bursts into colour and the birds burst into song. Have you ever thought how dull life would be, if everything was black and white, and shades of grey (not fifty!), and there was no bird song. How monotonous life would be.

Changing the subject, the Village Hall Social Committee have come up with an ambitious idea to replace the Fete, which has lost its popularity. They plan a Musical Festival (see coming events) with hog roast, barbeque etc. It is hoped this will appeal to a wider number of residents. So do try it out. The Social Committee have put in a lot of work giving us varied events that will be popular, like St George's Breakfast last April.

This year's Village Charity is St Lukes Hospice. Please support events that will be organised for this worthy cause throughout the year.

Thanks to all involved in the production and delivery of this magazine. Copy for the next issue by September 20th, either to me or preferably email to [bryan.diggory@sky.com](mailto:bryan.diggory@sky.com). If you set your copy on a PC and have use of the internet then please do send you copy to Bryan as this saves a lot of time and postage. Please note:- you do NOT then need to give me a copy. I will get these from Bryan and will edit and proof read it at least twice before it is published.

Isabel Johnson

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

## Chairmans Report

I first moved into the village approximately 40 years ago, the village then was made up of small bungalows on plots of land. The side roads had no tarmac, the main sewer had just been put in, my move in date was delayed while the sewer was connected. I moved in during the winter and from memory it was very cold, there was no central heating in the house so we had to resort to oil heaters to keep warm. My young family had to wrap well even in the house. Several weeks after moving in we noticed a group of men walking up and down the road, I nipped out to see what was going on and was introduced to most of the residence of Homestead Road, they were discussing the laying of tarmac on the road, I was asked if I would help. The plan was simple, some evenings a lorry would arrive loaded with hot tarmac, we would then lay it by hand and roll in stone chippings. The only problem was that we did not always know when to expect the delivery, so we would await a phone message (the lorry is on its way) we would all changed into dirty clothes rush out and spread liquid tar on the surface ready for the lorry load. This went on for several weeks and I became friendly with most of my neighbours.

The weather was colder than now and in the winter it was not uncommon to find Church Road flooded down by the river, either due to snow melt or just rain, as the kids all went to Crays Hill school we would have to wade through up to foot of water or cadge a lift from a friendly Landrover passing by. I soon became involved in the Village Hall and was introduced to another circle of friends. At that time Disco's were very popular and the Hall would run several during the year. As a family we would all go to them, the young ones would fall asleep on some ones lap and we would all dance to 11pm, at times the kids would sit on my shoulders and I would continue to dance (I must have been fit then!). As a family we had all sorts of animals Rabbits, Dogs, Horses, Goats, Chickens, etc. and the children had freedom. Talking to them now they all say what a great time they all had growing up.

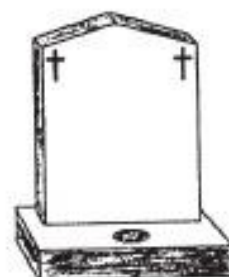
C. Jeffree

Ramsden Bellhouse Village Hall Chairman  
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Assistant Priests: Rev. Jean Andrews, 01268 733817

Rev. Miranda Seaman, 01277 841921

Lay Reader: Mrs. Suzy Edmundson, 01245 224181

### 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 at St. Mary's, St. Margaret's Downham, or St. Peter's South Hanningfield.

We continue to enjoy fellowship with our Friends at the Baptist Church joint services being held at St. Mary's on 12th October and the Baptist Church on 8th February. On 6th March all the local churches gathered at the Baptist Church for the Women's World Day of Prayer, this year's service being written by the women of the Bahamas. At the time of writing this, we are looking forward to the Palm Sunday celebrations, when both churches and the other Anglican churches in our group assemble at the Baptist Church and process to St. Mary's for a combined service. Further joint services are scheduled for 12th July at the Baptist Church and 11th October at St. Mary's, both at 10.30am.

The usual Coffee Morning on behalf of Macmillan Cancer Care in September raised £377.

The usual Charity Quiz was replaced in 2014 by a Beetle Drive held at the Village Hall on 12th November. This raised £282, which, combined with a collection in Church, enabled St. Mary's to pay £317 as our contribution to the Village Church Effort on behalf of the Essex Air Ambulance.

St. Mary's Church is open to visitors every Saturday from 10am to 4pm until October. Whilst this is an obligation in return for grants received from English Heritage, it provides an opportunity for local residents and casual passers-by to come in to view the ancient structure or merely sit for a time of quietness or contemplation.

As this is written we are about to hold a Quiz Night for Church funds, and our concert by the Sid Bolan Big Band in the Church on 25th April will also probably have taken place before you read this. Our next fund

raising event is our Strawberry Cream Tea at the Village Hall on Saturday 20th June from 2pm to 4pm. Tickets are £4 each (children under 10 £2) available from Audrey Pegrum on 01268 710757. Our big event is the Flower Festival over the August Bank Holiday, open on Saturday from 2 to 5pm (light refreshments available) and on Sunday and Monday from 11am to 5pm, when there will be a number of stalls and Ploughman's Lunches and other refreshments. There will be a Songs of Praise (hopefully in the open air) on Sunday at 4pm.

Lastly, an appeal, Have you any frozen fruit from last year, or this year's fresh fruit when available, for making jam to sell at the Flower Festival and other events? Please contact Audrey on 01268 710757.

Alan Pegrum



The Rector

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## Remember the War

In the Summer 2014 issue of this magazine we informed you that thanks to a successful grant application and contributions from Basildon Council, Ramsden Bellhouse Parish Council and the Village Hall Management Committee, sufficient funds were now available to progress with the new memorial and remembrance garden without having to rely on contributions from the community and local businesses.

Those of you that attended the RBPC stand at the village fete last summer will have had the opportunity to contribute and comment on the alternative designs and copy concepts that had been put forward, we are grateful to the residents that took the time to share their thoughts and suggestions with us.

Names of military and civilian casualties from the village from both the First and Second World Wars were confirmed prior to their names being engraved onto the tablets that form part of the memorial. Spare tablets have also been included as part of the design in order to provide space should it be required for the names of the fallen in future conflicts.

Whilst the original Plan was to seek and raise funds to replace the existing memorial over a 5 year period, thanks to the generosity of the above mentioned organisations it has been possible to complete the project in just over 12 months.

This action enabled the memorial and garden to be completed in time for Remembrance Day held on the 9th November, a blessing and 100 year Commemorative Service took place with almost 100 residents attending including the congregations from both the village churches.

On the 23rd February an Official Opening ceremony took place with Councillor Terri Sargent, councillor responsible for the environment and community advising that "it is fantastic to see residents getting together to take on a project for the local community, especially one dedicated to honouring the memory of our fallen soldiers and civilians from the First and Second World Wars"

Richard Wellborne Chairman of Ramsden Bellhouse Parish Council, added "For the first time in 70 years the village once again has a visible focal point where the relatives and members of the community, young and old can reflect on the sacrifices made".

If you have not already done so, please remember to register on line at [www.ramsdenbellhouse.info](http://www.ramsdenbellhouse.info) in order that you can be kept informed of Village Hall Events throughout the year.

Ramsden Bellhouse Memorial Committee.



*Richard Wellborne, Rector Stephen Robertson, Terri Sargent and Clive Jeffries Chairman of Village Hall Management Committee.*

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## A True Story from Long Ago

This is Angela my doll. She has had a very interesting life.

On the night of August 24th 1940, London experienced its first bombing raid.

I was a very small girl living in Peckham, South East London with my parents. We were spending the night in an air-raid shelter in my aunt's garden which was opposite my own house.

My house was bombed and poor Angela was tossed up onto the roof. Somehow she was rescued by the 'air-raid wardens' and restored to me in a rather sad state!

Naturally I was delighted, but there was sadness too. My Grandfather, so I was told, left the shelter to get a bucket of water from a stand pipe. They told me that he had dropped a bucket on his toes. In fact, he was killed by flying shrapnel. Shrapnel is a fragment of flying shell.



Pat Sparke



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## Teddies for Tragedies Essex Branch

I've just come in from helping to load a lorry bound for very poor people living in dire conditions – shacks and barrack-like buildings in Montenegro. There are about 2500 people from elderly to babies who are stateless due to fleeing from Kosovo and they have had their passports taken from them. They all wash in four large cattle troughs and their toilets are unmentionable. There are 5 lorries leaving England at the end of March to take aid to them and to help make conditions better. I was able to give them 27 sacks of crocheted and knitted blankets, new knitted jumpers, cardigans, hats etc. 2 duvets with covers and pillowcases, 450 toiletry boxes containing soap, flannel, toothbrush, toothpaste and comb, new men's sweaters, 450 teddies, 100 clowns, crutches and zimmer frame. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way to get this consignment together.

Again we were able to get Christmas Shoeboxes out to men, women





and children in Eastern Europe which was often the only present they received. Thank you to those who brought a lot of happiness into their lives not only for the presents but knowing that somebody far away was thinking of them.

During the winter, aid and teddies went to Zambia and lots of blankets and jumpers to Kenya.

Our grand total of teddies sent out to 51 different countries is now 289,422.

Let's hope we get a good summer and are able to enjoy it. God bless.

Audrey Pegrum MBE, Essex Branch Organiser



## Horticultural

I hope all your gardens are looking better than mine. I missed the last lawn cut in autumn, it's so wet I cannot get to the flower beds, but I am told it's good for wildlife.

Last years meeting ended with the AGM. We welcome Philippa onto the committee and look forward to some new ideas.



Russi and Jim Buttress

Our January talk was given by Leo Smith from the Italian Cooker School. It ended with a bowl of vegetable soup and bread. This was enjoyed by all. 'Gardeners of Impressionism' was the February talk by Martin Heard.

By the time this goes to press we will have held our evening talk by Jim Buttress. He will also judge our daffodil show.

On May 30th, we are holding a musical evening "Songs from the Shows," more information later and tickets will then be on sale. Our shows will be held on June 13th and September 12th.

We have some good speakers to come, also the garden visit. Don't forget members can buy from the Hut on Sunday mornings.

The meetings are held on the third Monday each month at 8pm, why not join us?

Marion Shillum

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## Baptist Church

In the last Village Magazine I concluded with a brief mention that a proposed Alpha course was to be held in the autumn of 2014. A commitment was made to run the course starting on the Thursday 25th September through to the 4th of December. The course is intended to introduce participants to the Christian faith in a relaxed atmosphere. The evenings would include a two course meal, followed by a talk on that evening's subject. Then the meeting would break into groups for an informal discussion on the talk they had heard.

Much prayer and planning have gone into it and on the 25th September we commenced the course with a splendid meal provided for us by Elisabeth Want. There were two tables as we consisted of two groups of people for the duration of the course. After the meal followed by coffee and tea Jim Hamilton, our Minister, gave us a talk to introduce us all to the content and the reasons for the Alpha course. His introduction was called "Christianity. Boring, Untrue and Irrelevant!"

The course over the following weeks, dealt with the following questions.

Who is Jesus? Why did Jesus die? How can I be sure of my faith? Why and how should I read the Bible? Why and how should I Pray? How does God guide us? Does God heal today? Why and how should I tell others? and What about the Church?

Also on one Saturday we centred our thoughts on the "Holy Spirit".

We learnt and were reminded of many of the foundations of the Christian Faith and its application to us as individuals and a church.

There is currently no intention to repeat the course, but it may well be repeated again at some time, when it is thought to be the right time. All attendees at this course felt it was a worthwhile and enjoyable experience and we all benefitted from what we heard and discussed to varying degrees.

Since then we have held a Musical Tea Party recently on Saturday the 21st February. This was open to both ladies and gentlemen. It was well attended and was a great success.

We will also be holding another "Tea at the Ritz" on Saturday 13th June. We expect a good number of ladies to attend, so if you would like to attend please let us know.

Our Minister, Jim Hamilton commenced a new series of sermons at the beginning of 2015 entitled "moving forward". The sermons centre on

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the early chapters of the book of Joshua in the Old Testament of the bible.

We also had a joint service at our church during February, when our friends from the Anglicans attended. It was lovely to see the church full and it was good to all worship the Lord together. Our next joint service will be on Palm Sunday at St Mary's Church, although starting at the Baptist Church.

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

Roger Newton



## Dancing

The Dance Section is going from strength to strength. We continue to celebrate those important dates of our members. We are to hold our annual charity square dance on the 16th May and we looking forward to meeting up again with Peter our caller for that evening. We recently celebrated a significant birthday for Brenda.

We held out Valentines Day buffet dance on 15th February this was especially for the young at heart amongst us.

We celebrated Easter with another buffet dance, all those eggs and cakes makes you glad that dancing is good exercise.

As they say keep dancing.

Barry Gardiner



## Line Dancing

At last word has got around about our popular line dancing class - Monday 2 p.m. (except Bank Holidays) £2.00. for one hour. Our numbers have swelled considerably making a great atmosphere. Our teachers Jean and Lyn have been teaching us for over 15 years now so we are all very pleased that they are keen to keep the class going. We still have room for more so please come down and give it a go.

Ann Wellborne

## Fun Whist

It's hard to believe that another Village Magazine is in preparation. Seemingly, only the blink of an eye after the Autumn one! They say 'Time flies when you're having fun' so maybe 'Fun' is the answer to a tedious and dark winter! Bringing me nicely to our Fun Whist evenings on the second Saturday of every month, 7-15pm start in the Village Hall!

We are now a small band of enthusiasts, but as the saying goes, 'size isn't everything', so please feel free to come along and join in.

On a more serious note we would all like to send our sincere good wishes to Michael Osang for a speedy and successful outcome to his recent illness and hope that he will shortly be back with us, livening up proceedings as only he can!

Good wishes to all in the Bellhouse, hoping for a sunny summer and lots of support for the Village activities.

Angela Hodivala



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## Bees

Help!.....There is a swarm of honeybees in my garden!

.....What it is all about? And what should I do? From April to September, you may well come across a swarm of honeybees in your garden - and you may think that it's an alarming sight, especially if you see it fly overhead. There will be a few thousand bees in a swarm, moving like a small, black cloud - and their sound will be like a quietly humming motor. When they settle it may be on a tree or a roof, and they will be a gently moving mass. So what is going on?

The story of a swarm is a fascinating one - and it's a chance to witness a wonder of nature. Essentially, the bees are swarming because they're obeying the urge to reproduce and start a new colony. When the old colony becomes large and when it's thriving, the bees will want to divide it. While a proportion of the bees, including the queen, leave to find another home - the rest remain and raise a new queen. Sometimes the remaining colony can swarm again (a swarm known to beekeepers as a cast), leaving a much reduced original colony. This can be a real nuisance for the beekeeper; because the colony is now smaller it will need time to build up - and these colonies produce less, if any, honey for beekeepers to take for themselves.

Experienced beekeepers can usually spot signs in the hive that the bees are thinking of swarming and they take measures to prevent this happening - but they can still get taken by surprise. Bees are unpredictable and don't play by beekeeping rules! A hive may look quiet in the morning, but by the evening a beekeeper can lift the roof off and find that, despite best efforts...they've gone!

Before a colony swarms, it sends out scout bees to find a new nest site. The bees then move to a temporary site, which may be in your garden. At the temporary site, the scout bees communicate to the others, by dancing on the surface of the swarm, their own choice of a permanent site. Eventually the bees reach a consensus on where to go, all the dancers do the same dance, and the scout bees guide the rest to their new home.

Bees prepare to swarm by feeding up on honey to keep them going until they're finally settled. Well-fed with full stomachs and with a sense of purpose, a swarm of bees is usually quite docile, although it still isn't wise to approach it too closely without a protective suit.

For advice on a swarm of bees in your garden, contact Chelmsford Beekeepers (see below). They have a 'swarm rota' of volunteers who collect swarms where they can to find a new home for them.

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WEDDING FLOWERS



Many beekeepers have taken up their hobby after discovering a swarm of bees in their garden. Watching the bees' behaviour can spark a new interest in these amazing creatures.

Swarm advice: Chelmsford Beekeepers website, [Chelmsfordbeekeepers.com](http://Chelmsfordbeekeepers.com) or The British Beekeepers Association [www.bbka.org.uk](http://www.bbka.org.uk)

Wendy Swift



### Cubs Report

Sept and Oct last year, seems like a long time ago, the cubs did some practice in readiness for the bi-annual Laindon Trophy competition where they joined other cub scouts in the Billericay and Wickford district for a half day of traditional scouting skills, tent pitching, knotting, lashings, 1st Aid and practicing their promise.

On 21st Oct we met at Hanningfield reservoir visitors' centre, where the education officer showed them how to look for bats and then they did mini beast hunting in the dark.

Nov 5th last year happened to be a Wed so the cubs made tea lights, cooked sausages on disposable BBQs and had sparklers.

The lead up to Christmas was a very busy time, cubs went to see Nativity 3 at the cinema, decorated chocolate logs, joined other cub packs for an evening at Partyman world in Basildon and we had our own Christmas party on the last night of term.

This term they have been working towards the Emergency Aid stage 2 badge, which should now be completed, they should all know how to put someone in the recovery position. They have also been working on the Community Challenge badge which included a visit from a Police Officer to find out about their work in the community.

15 cubs recently spent the night at Skreens Park Scout activity centre, supposedly sleeping in bunk beds in dormitories but not a lot of sleeping was actually done. The next day the site staff supervised the cubs taking part in team building, archery, bush craft, climbing and caving. They all went home happy and with plenty of mud. We are now looking forward to some nice summer weather for two camps planned for June and July.

Akela

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# Village Events throughout the year



Remembrance Service



Laying Wreaths at New Memorial



History of Ramsden



History of Ramsden



Line Dancing Party



Bowls Christmas Lunch



Horticultural Talk by Jim Buttress



Eric Lewsey at Memorial Opening, served in Fleet Air Arm in Pacific



Clive presents cheque to Essex Air Ambulance



Village Hall AGM



Why is the Editor being arrested?



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## Scouts Report

After last year's summer break, scouts restarted on 10th September by working towards the Promise Challenge Badge looking specifically at fair trade. The following week they went to Billericay Fire Station to learn about fire safety; always a popular venue and very informative as all scouts enjoy campfires!

Over the following term the scouts worked towards various badges by undertaking a number of activities that included building matchstick boats, CD hovercrafts, making a poppy wreath, woggle making, scarf and shirt ironing, making a bed, making a bird feeder, shoe/boot maintenance and lacing and knife and axe theory and practical, stove safety and cooking.

Once each month we have an out night. During October we visited Thriftwood Scout Campsite for an evening of fire lighting and cooking on an open fire, followed by wide games, which normally means run outs. We visited Chelmsford swimming pool in November when the scouts worked on their staged swimming badges and for the last week before



## Grahame Farley

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*References Available*



Christmas a trip to the Rayleigh Megazone for two games of quasar followed by food and drinks and badge awards. Since Christmas there has been a trip to the Rawreth Golf Driving range on a cold and windy evening and also to 1st Runwell Scouts to use their indoor climbing wall and preview their tunnelling system, in the loft!

Seven scouts took part in a hiking and camping weekend that also involved a train journey. We stayed at Prances Scout Campsite Wickham Bishops and also made use of their adventure course and also practised archery.

The scouts take part in a number of church parades throughout the year, including Remembrance Sunday, when the War Memorial was dedicated. 11 scouts took part in the ceremony.

We currently have 20 scouts and will be pleased to welcome new recruits on a Wednesday evening when we meet from 7.30pm to 9.30pm. The age range is from 10½ to 14.

Chris Maker, Scout Leader MOB: 07592 073302



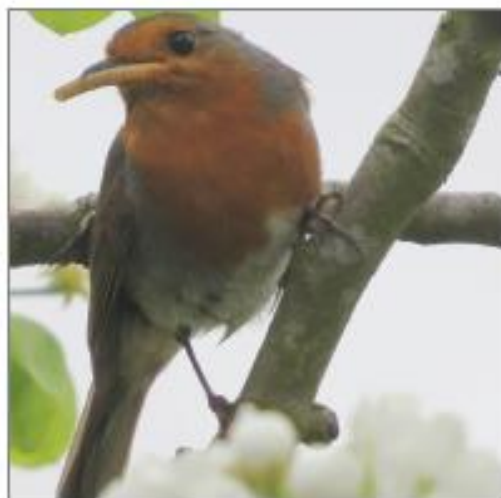
### A Sad Song

Where are all the hedges going?  
Going from Ramsden  
Where will all the birds build?  
Not in Ramsden

Where are all the gardens going?  
Filled with paving  
Where will all the flowers grow?  
Not in Ramsden

Where are all the bees going?  
Going from Ramsden  
Where will honey come from?  
Not from Ramsden

What will Ramsden's future be?  
No wild life in Ramsden?  
Where will colour and country go?  
Go from Ramsden



Isabel Johnson

with apologies to "Peter, Paul and Mary"

## Saving Lives

Each year many lives are saved throughout the country thanks to the use of Automated External Defibrillators (AED) and the volunteers that have been trained in their use.

Ramsden Bellhouse Parish Council in conjunction with the Village Hall Management Committee have been looking at the viability of these schemes over the last 12 months in order to establish if this is something that would be of benefit to the community, residents and users of the Village Halls.

Thanks to the scheme which has been set up by the East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust, an AED was presented to Richard Wellborne Chairman of Ramsden Bellhouse Parish Council by Kevin Hudson Acting Community Partnership Manager Paramedic.

Anthony Marsh, Chief Executive of EEAST said "I'm delighted that we have started this important project to invest in the communities we serve by improving access to these lifesaving devices in key locations"

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*Richard Wellborne receiving AED from Kevin Hudson*

within minutes however, every second counts and having a defibrillator on scene can make the difference between life and death"

On behalf of the community Richard Wellborne thanked Kevin Hudson and the EEAST for providing the defibrillator and undertook to recruit sufficient volunteers that will be trained in its use, both from the users of the village hall and the residents within the community.

As the AED will require to be housed in a secure location whilst being accessible and it will require to have an electrical connection for charging purposes, the Parish Council has agreed to fund the cost of this specialised cabinet. The location of the AED will be communicated to the community once it has been agreed.

Details requesting volunteers to come forward for training from the community will be communicated at Parish Council Meetings, through the Notice Board at the Village Hall and on the Ramsden Bellhouse Parish Council and Village Halls websites.

<http://www.essexinfo.net/ramsdensbellhouseparishcouncil/>

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

Training dates will be advised on a first come basis given that each group to be trained cannot exceed 20 volunteers, more training groups will be set up as required.

Ramsden Bellhouse Parish Council

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## Baptist Church Minister Writes

### CHOICES!

As I write this there are still several weeks to go until the next General Election, but already the campaign is beginning to gain momentum. Party leaders are lining up to make their big promises. Party members are picking holes in opponents arguments. Pundits are analysing and expressing their support or cynicism. By the time the big day arrives I guess many of us will be tired of it all and glad to return to normality. The fact is however that on that day all of us who are eligible are called upon to make a choice. Perhaps in our locality the result will not be in doubt, but we all have to play a part. It is easy to take for granted the privilege of being able to vote freely and without fear in the knowledge that the result will be genuine and not corrupted by those in power.

The reality is that so much of our lives are determined and dominated by the choices we make. some of these choices are relatively trivial and take place on a daily basis - what we will wear, what to eat, what to watch on TV, what music to listen to, what film to go to see, what newspaper to read, perhaps what holiday to have. Other choices are more serious and significant - what subjects to major on at school, what university to attend, what course to follow, what career to pursue, where to live, what partner to commit to, how many, if any, children to have. Our lives are filled with choices and we always have to live with the consequences. All of us have made some great choices (my wife will tell you that I made a great choice in marrying her), and I would imagine all of us have made some bad ones (I once bought a Rover car two weeks before the company went bust)! One thing is for sure, the choice the country makes at the election in May will be important, and we will all reap the benefits or otherwise of the choice we make.

I believe there is another choice that is as important as any of those I have mentioned. Many years ago there was a man called Joshua who was chosen to lead the people of Israel into the Promised Land. We read about him in the old Testament of the Bible. In Joshua ch 24 v 15 we read that he said this to the people, "Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve... but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." Just as for us today, there were many choices open to Joshua about how he was going to live his life - what would be his priorities, what would be the focus of his beliefs, what moral code would he follow, how would he look after and use his resources. He concluded that the best and safest choice

was to trust in God and follow His ways and guidelines. I believe that becoming and being a Christian is to have made such a choice. There came a time in my life when I chose to commit to and follow Jesus, and I believe it is the best choice I have ever made. In fact I believe it is the best choice any of us can make - even more important than the choice facing us at the General Election. He never breaks any of His promises!

Jim Hamilton

Minister, Ramsden Bellhouse Baptist Church



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## Chicken and Vegetable Traybake

### Ingredients

2 red onions cut into wedges  
500g (1lb 2oz) new salad potatoes (such as Charlotte) cut in half lengthways  
1 red pepper, deseeded and cut into chunks  
1 yellow pepper, deseeded and cut into chunks  
1 courgette, thickly sliced  
8 cloves garlic, left unpeeled  
5 tsp olive or rapeseed oil  
8 chicken thighs (about 1kg/2¼lb total weight with skin on and bones in), skin removed  
1 tsp dried Italian herb seasoning  
Freshly ground black pepper, to taste  
4 tomatoes, halved

Preheat oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 6. Arrange red onions, potatoes, peppers, courgette and garlic in a large non-stick roasting tin. Drizzle over 3 teaspoons of the olive oil; toss to coat vegetables all over. Roast in oven for 15 minutes.

Meanwhile slash each chicken thigh a couple of times with a sharp knife. Place chicken in a bowl, drizzle over remaining oil, add herbs and black pepper; toss to coat chicken.

Remove roasting tin from oven, nestle chicken thighs between vegetables. Tuck tomato halves, cut side up, around vegetables. Return to oven; roast for a further 45 minutes or so until chicken is fully cooked.

Serve immediately squeezing garlic out of the skins as you eat. Serve with a mixed leaf salad or crusty bread, if you like.

### Cooks tips

Cool any leftovers and refrigerate overnight. Enjoy the next day, reheat until piping hot throughout.

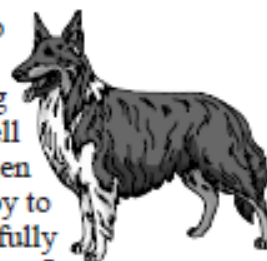
Substitute dried mixed herbs for the Italian herb seasoning.

Joan Wright

*If you have a story to tell contact the Editor*

## Dog Training

Ramsden Dog Training Club is continuing to do well. Two of our members competed at Crufts, Fiona and Gill Fiona came 2nd in her class showing her Border Collie Ludo, congratulations and well done Fiona and Ludo. Our secretary Rita has been very ill and in hospital for some time but I am happy to report that she is now feeling a lot better and hopefully will be back with us soon, we have missed you Rita. I must say a huge thank you to our members who have stepped in to help and have ensured that our "show" will go ahead this year, thank you Shiela, Fiona and Kim. Our show season is just starting so good luck to everyone during 2015. Have fun and enjoy.



Valerie Dean, Vice Chairman



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## Bygone Years

### Mary the Post

Mary was my friend, and I will not forget her kindness to me in the traumatic times of my life.

Today, people going through Ramsden Bellhouse probably do not even notice the little bungalow called "Ku ming". They do not know that the frail old lady that lived there was once the best known lady in this Village. She was our Post Lady - Mary the Post.

Behind that Post Office Uniform beat a truly kind and caring heart. Whilst she went out in all weathers on her bike, I cannot say the post was delivered on time! In fact it was nearly always late!

This was because Mary, whilst on her rounds was uniting lost animals with their owners, welcoming newcomers to the Village and keeping an eye on the elderly and recently bereaved. Her great commitment to the community however, was not appreciated by the Post Office, and she nearly lost her job because of it. But the Village rallied round her, and all was well. Her retirement party was packed with friends and Villagers, and reflected the immense affection and gratitude she so well deserved.

Mary was human and could never truly be described as a sweet old lady. She did not suffer fools gladly, and her growing deafness often led to misunderstanding and rudeness.

She had given so much in her working life, perhaps she expected too much of people. She and I had our moments of complaining and shouting at each other but she was my friend and I will not forget her.

She loved Ramsden Bellhouse, as she knew it, and was always interested in the events that were happening, and gave contributions to them up to the last weeks of her life. Mary died on February 1st this year. I knew her in all her moods, and once more I simply say she was my friend and I shall miss her.

Isabel Johnson

**We hope to hold a Memorial Service  
for Mary sometime this year**

## Postmen from the Past



*Stanley  
Carpenter  
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from  
Billericay  
1919 -  
1940*



*Unknown Postman delivering mail  
in Church Road. Pre 1919*





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## Bowls Club

Our Bowls club is still well supported, members regularly in attendance displaying their bowling skills, always aiming for improvement.

Our Christmas Lunch was held in the Village Hall, members opted for an outside caterer and we were not in any way disappointed as the entire event was most enjoyable. Members were waited on and served scrumptious dishes to dine on, it was excellent! Positive feedback from bowlers and guests alike. Now looking forward to a repeat performance!

### Christmas Bazaar

Home baked cakes and pies were present on the Bowls Stall along with a superb Raffle. "Thank you" members who organised and manned the stalls on the afternoon in support of the Village Hall.

Our 3 league teams Rooks Ravens and Robins have participated in matches with other clubs league Teams. Positions at present, before going to press are:-

Rooks Division 3 -3rd    Ravens Division 6 - 3rd    Robins Division 7 - 6th

As the league games are completed so arranged 'Friendly's begin. Look to notice board for dates please.

Congratulations Hercock Heat Winners, Jacqui, Terry, Irene, and Malcolm.

A social evening for the League Teams, an opportunity for the teams to intermingle and play against one another proved to be an enjoyable evening.

"The Coaching Evening" event was appreciated by those who attended. Positive advice was offered to improve bowling skills -so now, go practice!

Thanks Malcolm for arranging the above events.

Wedding 'Gem' Anniversaries of Club Members. Congratulations to:-

Jacqui and Terry - Golden 50th Anniversary, Phyllis and Derek - Diamond 60th Anniversary

### Coming Events

Single and Doubles inter Competitions. Who will be the Champions this year ?

Thanks to Roy for organising the events

Bye for now Eileen Smith

## Personal Page

### Congratulations to

Phyllis and Derek Bird from Ramsden Bowls Club on their Diamond Wedding on January 29th.

Roy Richards of "Conwy" Church Road on his 80th birthday on February 3rd.

Pat Sparke of Homestead Road on her 80th birthday on March 13th.

Terry and Jacqui Manning from Ramsden Bowls Club on their Golden Wedding on March 20th

### In Memory of

Mary Shain of "Kuning" Church Road who died on February 1st aged 90 years. Mary was our much loved Post Lady for many years. She had served on the Hall Management and been a member of Medau, Horticultural, Women's Institute, Bowls Club and the Baptist Church. Our sympathies go to Martin and family.





## Emblem Group

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## Village Hall Social Events

The last event in the social calendar of 2014 was the Christmas Bazaar which opened at 12 a.m. with the arrival of Father Christmas. He did his customary walk around the stalls to wish everyone a 'Merry Christmas' and then with Mummy Christmas entered his Grotto to await the children. Craft and fun stalls filled both halls with refreshments including mulled wine and mince pies. Father Christmas judged the fancy dress competition which was won by an eighteen month old little girl dressed as a ladybird. A very enjoyable afternoon was had by everyone.

Next in January was the A.G.M which was quite well attended and the charity voted in this year was St Luke's Hospice. The Management Committee and the Sections will be working hard to raise money for this charity during the coming year. Did you know that since the Village Hall has been raising money for charity over £80,000 has been given to the charity voted for at the A.G.M. Next year why not try and attend, your vote might make a difference.

Isabel once again produced a magnificent display of books, photographs and maps of the village and surrounding areas. If you have never attended one of Isabel's History of Ramsden Exhibitions please try and come, it is an event that shouldn't be missed.

St. George's Day Breakfast will have taken place on 26th April before this magazine is published. I am sure it will have been well attended as it is a very popular event. Last year we served 191 people over the course of three hours!

The fete will not be happening this year, we are trying something different. A Musical Festival live bands, singers, DJ and dancing into the evening including hog roast, burgers and bangers and other food. It will be an all ticket event, please watch out for the flyers in your post boxes, posters around the village and on the web. This event will take place on Saturday June 27th so please try and come and bring all your family and friends.

Ann Wellborne, Social Secretary



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## Bus Timetable

Changes to the Time Table for Route 237 took place in January. Buses towards Basildon now operate 5 minutes later, except that the last bus runs 20 minutes earlier on Saturdays. In the opposite direction, buses to Wickford formerly departing 10.23, 12.23 and 14.23 run 5 minutes earlier. The last two buses, formerly 17.53 and 18.53(NS) are now 20 minutes earlier. The route no longer serves Festival Leisure Park.

Monday to Saturday Service - Revised times & route with effect from 5th January 2015

	NS				SO	NS
South Woodham, Asda	08:00	09:00	11:00	13:00	16:00	18:20
South Woodham, Rail Station	08:05	09:05	11:05	13:05	16:05	18:25
Woodham Rd, Opp. Butterfly Farm	08:09	09:09	11:09	13:09	16:09	18:29
Rettendon, Turnpike Corner	08:14	09:14	11:14	13:14	16:14	18:34
Runwell, Church	08:18	09:18	11:18	13:18	16:18	18:38
Wickford, Opp. The Swan P H	08:21	09:21	11:21	13:21	16:21	18:41
Brock Hill, Downham Road	08:25	09:25	11:25	13:25	16:25	18:45
Ramsden Heath, White Horse	08:33	09:33	11:33	13:33	16:33	18:53
Ramsden Bellhouse, Glebe Rd	08:37	09:37	11:37	13:37	16:37	18:57
Crays Hill, Shepherd & Dog	08:42	09:42	11:42	13:42	16:42	17:02
Noak Bridge, South Wash Road	08:47	09:47	11:47	13:47	16:47	17:07
Miles Gray Road, Opposite B&Q	08:50	09:50	11:50	13:50	16:50	17:10
Basildon, Bus Station Stand R	08:55	09:55	11:55	13:55	16:55	17:15
Basildon Hospital	09:00	---	---	---	17:00	17:20
	NS				SO	NS
Basildon Hospital	---	---	---	---	17:00	18:00
Basildon, Bus Station Stand R	10:00	12:00	14:00	17:05	18:05	
Miles Gray Road, B&Q	10:05	12:05	14:05	17:10	18:10	
Noak Bridge, South Wash Road	10:08	12:08	14:08	17:13	18:13	
Crays Hill, Opposite Shepherd & Dog	10:13	12:13	14:13	17:18	18:18	
Ramsden Bellhouse, Glebe Rd	10:18	12:18	14:18	17:23	18:23	
Ramsden Heath, White Horse	10:22	12:22	14:22	17:27	18:27	
Brock Hill, Downham Road	10:30	12:30	14:30	17:35	18:35	
Wickford, The Swan Pub	10:34	12:34	14:34	17:39	18:39	
Runwell, Quart Pot	10:37	12:37	14:37	17:42	18:42	
Rettendon, Turnpike Corner	10:41	12:41	14:41	17:46	18:46	
Woodham Rd, Butterfly Farm	10:46	12:46	14:46	17:51	18:51	
South Woodham, Opp. Rail Station	10:50	12:50	14:50	17:55	18:55	
South Woodham, Asda	10:55	12:55	14:55	18:00	19:00	

Key: NS - This journey does not operate on a Saturday.

SO - This journey operates on Saturdays only.

Note: This service no longer serves Wickford Rail Station and Guernsey Gardens (towards Basildon) & Festival Leisure Park in both directions.

## Village Events

### MAY

Saturday 9th	Whist Drive	7.15pm	Village Hall
Saturday 16th	Charity Square Dance	07702 233898	Village Hall
Tuesday 19th	Parish Council AGM	7.45pm	Village Hall
Saturday 23rd	Crunch	9am - midday	Village Hall
Saturday 30th	"Musical Moments"	7.30pm	Village Hall
	Info & Tickets 710619		

### JUNE

Saturday 13th	Horticultural Summer Show	2.30pm	Village Hall
Saturday 13th	Whist Drive	7.30pm	Village Hall
Saturday 20th	Strawberry Tea 710757	2.00 - 4.00pm	Village Hall
Saturday 27th	"Musical Festival"	4.00 - 11.00pm	Village Hall
	711675 / 710250		

### JULY

Saturday 11th	Crunch	9am - midday	Village Hall
Saturday 11th	Whist Drive	7.15pm	Village Hall

### AUGUST

Saturday 8th	Whist Drive	7.15pm	Village Hall
Saturday 29th	Flower Festival	2.00 - 5.00pm	St Mary's Church
Sunday 30th	Flower Festival	11.00am - 5.00pm	St Mary's Church
Monday 31st	Flower Festival	11.00am - 5.00pm	St Mary's Church

### SEPTEMBER

Saturday 12th	Horticultural Autumn Show	2.30pm	Village Hall
Saturday 12th	Whist Drive	7.15pm	Village Hall

### OCTOBER

Saturday 10th	Whist Drive	7.15pm	Village Hall
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## Village Directory

<b>Village Hall</b>	Chairman	- Clive Jeffree	710559
	Booking Secretary	- Vivienne Fisher	07772 630513
			01268 531441
	Secretary	- Abby Short	01268 711675
	Treasurer	- Derek Swan	710478
<b>Magazine</b>	Social Secretary	- Ann Wellborne	710250
	Editor	- Isabel Johnson	710428
	Advertising	- Isabel Johnson	710428
<b>Badminton</b>	Fridays 8pm - 11pm	- Karen Pearce	01268 711227
<b>Dog Training</b>	Monday (except 3rd in month)		
	7.15pm - 10pm	- Rita Barber	01702 231189
<b>St Mary's Church</b>	Church Wardens	- Beryl Clements	01245 601298
<b>Horticultural</b>	3rd Monday in the month except July, August and December	- Rusi Hodiava	710619
<b>Ladies Medau</b>	Thursday 8pm	- Veronica Greenwood	01702 559914
<b>Cubs</b>	Wed 5.45pm - 7.15pm	- Lin Prince	01268 710143
<b>Scouts</b>	Wed 7.30pm - 9.30pm	- Chris Maker	01277 652337
	except 2nd Wed in month		
<b>Baptist Church</b>	Roger Newton		01268 710259
<b>Bowls</b>	Mon 7.30pm		
	Wed 10am		
	Fri 1.30pm	- Angela Hodiava	01268 710619
<b>Dancing Club</b>	Every Sunday 7.30pm - 10.30pm		
	General Dancing	- Barry Gardiner	07702 233898
<b>Whist Drive</b>	Roy Richards (see Village Events)		710669
<b>Line Dancing</b>	Every Monday 2.00pm - 3.00pm	Ken Dobson	710771
<b>Bellhouse Preschool</b>	Mon to Fri 9.30am	-	07881 448686
<b>Website</b>	www.ramsdenbellhouse.info		
<b>Ramsden Parish Council</b>	Karen Plumridge Clerk		01245 400628



## Bellhouse Preschool

Ramsden Bellhouse  
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