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Village Magazine Winter 2010



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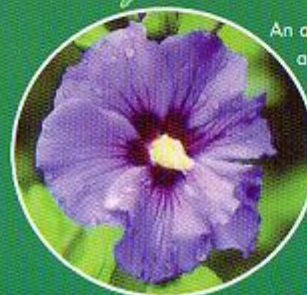
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A Word from the Editor

For the last few days I have been busy contacting the contributors to this magazine who are inclined to procrastinate (closing date 20th - now 24th!). At last most people have a tick beside their name - I sat back smugly - but wait a minute - who is this that I haven't nagged? - "A word from the Editor" - no telephone number oh dear I do believe that's me!

So here we are and what shall I write? What can I praise, and what can I grumble about?

Well, the summer activities have come and gone, and Christmas bazaars and parties loom ahead together with Carol Services and Winter Social Life. In spite of my plea for photographs of events in the Village and in individual sections, nothing has materialised - so its just up-dated pictures of the same summer events.

I hope you have enjoyed the hanging baskets brightening up the Village Hall this summer. These were planted by the Jump Ahead Pre School, aided by members of the Horticultural Society. It was good to see co-operation between two users of the Village Hall with quite a large age gap. But why do children these days seem to worry about getting their hands dirty?

I have two requests for people in Church Road who have footpaths outside their properties. Could you please make sure that your hedge does not hang over (brambles etc) and poke out the eyes of some poor unsuspecting walkers. Secondly if you have a gravel drive, could you spare an occasional moment to sweep back your gravel from the footpath to your drive. This may seem very trivial but it is very easy to turn one's ankle on the smallest bits of gravel.

Whilst on the subject of footpaths, I would like to praise the lady, who through sheer dogged persistence, got the brambles which blocked the path by the railway bridge cut back by the authority responsible. Well done - now we can post our letters, visit the pub, walk our dogs without taking our lives in our hands by stepping off into the path of speeding traffic.

Please send copy for the next magazine by March 20th 2011, if you have the facilities please send it direct to bryan.diggory@sky.com - also photos etc.

Thanks to everyone who has helped in the production and delivery of this magazine. *Happy Christmas to you all.*

Isabel Johnson

Chairman's Report

Autumn is here and the weather is definitely getting colder.

Those who regularly visit the Village Hall will have seen changes taking place in the old hall. The toilets have been completely refurbished. The entrance doors to each have been removed from the end of the hall and are now situated in the foyer. This change should improve the end of the hall and make it more acceptable to those sitting there during events. The insides of the toilets have been completely altered, furniture removed, replaced and floor and walls tiled - have a look, they look good. The hall is to be repainted to make the older section of the complex more attractive for those wishing to hire the hall for events. Those interested, contact the booking secretary - Vivienne Fisher 07772 630513.

Outside, the grounds always require continued effort, grass needs cutting and the hedges need trimming.

Since the last report we have had the Fete/Fun Day and the August Bank Holiday Art Show. Both successful. We tried at the Fun Day more Bouncy Castles to attract the youngsters, so come along next year there are plenty of things to do. Thanks to Joan and her band of helpers for their time and effort and all those putting effort into these events. The next events planned at the Hall are the Remembrance Day Parade and the Christmas Bazaar. The Remembrance celebrations are a community event in conjunction with both Village Churches and the Parish Council. While the Bazaar will have a visit from Father Christmas for the children and stalls etc. for the adults, all funds raised will go to the running of the Village Hall. I hope to see you *all* there for both events to support the local community.

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



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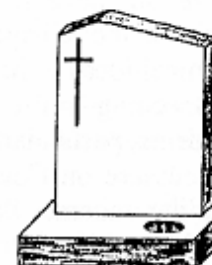
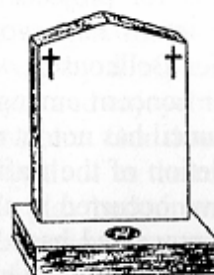
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VILLAGE FETE



Parish Council

Recent improvements, requested by residents, have brought positive benefits to Ramsden Bellhouse. The installation of a range of new play equipment and safety surface in the park, the new bus shelters and a dog waste bin have received enthusiastic welcome. Ideas for projects to improve the village are always appreciated: please let us have your practical ideas to improve any aspect of life in Ramsden Bellhouse.

Speeding traffic continues to be a major cause for concern amongst residents, particularly in Church Road. The Parish Council has not let up its pressure on County Council Highways for completion of the traffic calming scheme. Several speed related accidents have occurred at the Northern end of the village which might have been prevented had the final island been in place. At the time of writing, the County Council has undertaken to have the design for the last build-out ready for the consultation stage at the end of September.

The Community Speedwatch team remains active and has met with a mixture of support from local residents and abuse from some of those who use Church Road as a race track. Speedwatch has proved an effective deterrent and will become more so as the Police introduce their follow up scheme for "repeat offenders" in the coming weeks. Despite the success of the islands and of Speedwatch, the Parish Council is always looking for new ways to tackle speeding through the village.

The Parish taxi voucher scheme helps those residents who have limited mobility. This service, funded through the Parish Council tax, provides an important service that is deeply appreciated by those who have need of it. Please make contact if you think you might be eligible.

The private security patrols in the village continue and are specifically tailored to address local concerns at a cost lower than community policing yet with greater control by the Parish Council.

All Parish Council meetings are open to the public and are held in the village hall at 7.30pm. Dates are on the noticeboard outside the village hall.

The Budget meeting for the 2011-12 financial year will be held on 30th November. Please join us.

Karen Plumridge, Clerk to the Parish Council 01245 400628
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Jackie Payne has recently taken over as Licensee of 'The Ship' and the main aim for both myself and my staff is to serve freshly prepared food using local produce and suppliers to create dishes of a very high standard. We are a family run pub serving well kept Real Ales, Fine Wines and a selection of Draught and Bottled Beers. Welcoming children with their own menu choices again using only fresh ingredients, with an extensive play area and gardens to ensure they feel as welcome as the adults.

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Fun Whist

By the time this magazine is with you, the days will be well and truly drawing in and Christmas is the forthcoming highlight on the calendar. Fun Whist proves a very pleasant way to spend the second Saturday of each month, just a short trip down the road to the Village Hall, for a light hearted evening of cards, a cup of tea and a fair bit of chat and laughter. An excellent antidote to the gloomy winter days ahead!

We have several new players, but mostly coming from Billericay, so a few more joining from the village would be lovely. No long term commitment necessary, and just £3-00 for the evening, which includes a chance in the raffle. What better value than that.

To remind everyone of the Whist Saturdays we usually have a board outside on the relevant nights, so if you see it out, consider that an invitation to come along.

Angela Hodivala

Autumn Days

As I write this, the leaves on the trees around us are beginning to change their colour and starting to fall to the ground. Autumn is here. Soon the gradual flurry of falling leaves will quicken and trees draped in robes of green will once again shed their summer clothes ready for winter.

Most of us like our gardens to look tidy. The bible tells us that in the beginning there was chaos and that God brought order out of chaos. We like to bring order in our homes and gardens, and have things neat and tidy. We too like to bring order out of chaos.

The other day I cut the grass on my front lawn and, as I did so, the mower gathered up the fallen leaves. When I was finished, I stood back and admired my work and the stripes running the length of the garden.

But as I stood there in the afternoon sunshine admiring the lawn, a gentle breeze rustled the trees and caused a few dozen leaves to fall on the grass. It was as if nature was having a laugh at my expense. We can try to keep our gardens tidy, but we cannot tame nature!!!

As some of you know, the Rectory is surrounded by trees. One of the things that living here has done is taught me that nature is messy. And life is messy!!! Whether it is badgers digging up the lawn, or birds dropping their mess on the car roof, or simply the trees shedding thousands of autumn leaves, nature is messy. And even if we try to block pave over the whole of creation it will always be that way. Eventually the weeds grow up through the block paving and nature takes control again.

In the same way we cannot control time. Time waits for no man and eventually conquers all of us. As the changing seasons cleanse and renew the earth, so time washes away man made regimes and empires and provides successive generations with a fresh start.

Time is a conqueror. On All Saints' Day, All Souls' Day, and Remembrance Sunday, at the beginning of November, we remember those who have completed their earthly pilgrimage. As Isaac Watt's great hymn puts it...

... Time, like an ever-rolling stream will bear us all away; we fade and vanish, as a dream dies at the opening day.

Nature is messy and life is messy! One of the great things about the Christmas message is that God, in Jesus Christ, was prepared to be born as one of us and live in the mess. He was prepared to live the life of an ordinary human being and share in all our joys and sorrows, our pleasures, our pain, and our disappointments.



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And although Jesus lived an extraordinary life, and in some ways a privileged life, he experienced hunger and persecution and the pain of bereavement and was eventually put to death in a most barbaric way.

As we watch the trees around us shedding their autumn leaves preparing for winter and the coming of another spring, we may be reminded of many things. Those leaves may be dying, but that is not the end of the story!!! So the life of Jesus of Nazareth tells us that death is not the end, but for all who believe in him it is a gateway . . . the gateway to the life that is to come.

Revd Stephen Robertson
Rector of St. Mary's Church

St Mary's Carol Service
Thursday December 16th

Art Exhibition 2010

My 15th one. As always held over the August Bank Holiday and as always most enjoyable. It is always lovely seeing old and new friends some travelling long distances who help to make a super atmosphere.

Do not think there were as many visitors as other years - we certainly did not sell as many pictures. Recession? Who knows. There were certainly some excellent works on display. The halls were a riot of colour and a huge variety of subjects. The photographs in the Old Hall were interesting and astonishing how they had used light and shadows with the cameras.

In the Old Hall along with the photographs we had pretty hand made cards which were presented beautifully. Christine drew her animal pictures which are



so lifelike. Isabel organised the refreshments thank you to her and the girls for making a selection of buns and cakes. I sampled most of them!

The childrens section was jolly. Bless them. If the family Pelham are reading this magazine could I please have your address as they have won some certificates.

For just 2 hours Jan played her harp, it is such a beautiful sound and only wish she could spare more of her time. The books were popular and the Raffle table looked exciting and did well. Thank you to the team who assembled the frames and boards and hung the pictures - couldn't do without you all. We made about £930 which will probably go towards the new toilets.

So Artists well done until next year. Not too early to start painting your entries now! Have yourselves a Healthy Merry Christmas and a good 2011.

Yours with a brush stroke Joan Kelly

Merry Christmas to you all

Medcalfs

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Horticultural

I need not have been concerned about the Daffodils for our Spring Show, it was a good show with entries up. The Silver Medal was won by Vicky on her first time of entering, well done.

The April meeting 'Growing Flowers From Seed' reminded us of flowers that we had forgotten, I am sure we will be growing some of them again. So many members came to the Tea Tasting in May we thought we had been invaded, it would be great to see you all at more meetings.

The Summer Show went well with a good display of roses. We had less vegetables entered than in previous years, but more flower arrangements, which were outstanding and they received many favourable comments from the afternoon visitors. The walk Joan arranged at the Laindon Nature Reserve was on a fine June evening. The guides knowledge and enthusiasm was infectious, he certainly knew his Reserve and its wildlife.

We were invited to Angela and Rusi's for our garden visit in July, the garden looked immaculate the weather perfect and the tea and cakes



Generations meet to plant hanging baskets

excellent, what more could we have wanted. Thank you Angela and Rusi.

Hope you all enjoyed your Summer break, our new programme started in September. We meet on the third Monday of each month at 8.00pm why not join us all are welcome.

Marion Shillum



Childhoods

What did you do as a child Grandma
With no telly to watch every day?
And you mean there were not computers then?
But your days were not boring you say?

We made up our own games to play my dear,
With our dolls and our colouring pads
Boys had toy cars and Hornby train sets.
We played "nurses" and "mummies and dads"

We kicked through the leaves on the way back from school
We caught tiddlers in jars from the streams
We fell in the river, and went home smelling foul.
And saved pennies for weeks for ice creams.

But what did you do without mobiles Grandma?
And how did you chat to your mates?
And how did you get to school Grandma
With no car to drop you off at the gates?

We walked, or we ran, or we skipped to school,
Through puddles, and ditches and snow.
But of course there was no dangerous traffic then.
So no question - we just had to go.

We talked to our friends in our playtime,
And while dawdling back home from our schools
But once home there was so much to interest
Books to read, and games with no rules.

We learnt such a lot about nature,
We had time dear, to wonder and stare.
We learnt that mud pies weren't for eating,
But blackberries were scrumptiously there.

So were your times better dear Grandma?
Do you think we are missing a lot?
We can see all these things on the telly
Our computers can tell us what's what.

Your lives are so different from ours dear,
You must live in your times with your phone
Computers and tellies are here now
And us Grandmas must learn not to mean

But of course we think our times were better
As you think you're glad they are gone
But when your little ones ask the same questions
You'll know that your lives must move on

Isabel Johnson

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 8.00 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.

Our last article was in the magazine six months ago. It ended with an invite to our church anniversary service and a Garden Party in the afternoon. I wrote that before it had been decided to not hold the garden party this year. In its place, following the service, we had a delightful sit-down lunch, including strawberries and cream. The actual anniversary service was held in the morning. The church had been adorned with many beautiful flowers and the service itself was conducted by a visiting preacher, Michael Bell. During the course of the service, John Rutter's "Look at the World" was sung by the choir with great gusto, under the leadership of Ann Griggs. The lunch followed and was thoroughly enjoyed by forty-plus members of the congregation and a meaningful time of fellowship was experienced by everyone. The glorious weather

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added to a very pleasant and uplifting occasion.

During July we enjoyed a joint service with the Anglicans. The service was held at St Mary's. Our minister, Geoffrey Griggs preached, basing his sermon on that day's New Testament lesson which included the question asked of Jesus "Who is my neighbour?" The service concluded with Holy Communion. It is always good to worship together with other fellowships and celebrate our common faith in the Lord Jesus.



*Baptist
Church
Anniversary
Lunch*

On the 3rd October we held our yearly Harvest service. This was an occasion when the church was full as it was also a parade service when the local cub and scout group came to the church along with several parents and friends. The church was decorated for the occasion and our pastor Geoffrey Griggs led the service with a certain amount of involvement by "volunteered" scouts and cubs.

Further along and in anticipation of the Christmas period, which seems to arrive earlier every year, we would extend an invitation to our "Carols by Candlelight" service that will be held on Sunday 12th December. It is intended that refreshments will be available after the service. Please put this in your diary and come along if you are able.

All our services and events are designed to encourage people to consider the Christian faith. If you do require further details of any service or event please do not hesitate to enquire. The Baptist and Anglican churches are here in the village for you. You will be very welcome at either church.

Roger Newton - Church Secretary

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Isabel's Garden Party



August 2nd dawned a little overcast, but whilst lawns were more brown than green, our hopes were high. The willing (?) helpers had put everything out before and consumed tea/coffee and cake in the process. Around 2pm the sun and visitors arrived, and our hopes were realised with more people than ever attending (mental note - more cakes needed next year!)

The highlight was the little boy who so badly wanted to win the cuddly toy in the raffle. After many enquiries as to the time of calling the raffle, the moment arrived, and for him the tension was obvious. Would someone else get the cuddly toy? Would his ticket even be called? What relief when each

winner chose something else - but then - some wretched man (my cousin who'd already won one prize) chose the longed for toy. Misery was etched all over the child's face. But then - oh joy - the wretched man walked over and gave the child the toy. Everyone cheered the boy was ecstatic and the wretched man was a hero! I have to admit to a tear in my eye.

£720 was handed over to the RNLI a record amount raised. thank you everyone who helped and attended. You made it a lovely day for me.

Isabel Johnson

**See Father Christmas
at the Village Hall
Saturday November 27th**

Scout Report

The Scouts have been working towards the Promise Challenge badge and to achieve this they must undertake a number of activities. So far they have reviewed the Troop Code of Conduct and also taken part in a debate of national interest during the run up to the recent General Election. Attending church parade also counts towards this Challenge.

The Scouts are also working on their Community Challenge badge. They have helped tidy and clean the store room at the village hall as well as sweep and scrub down the paved area by the side of the hall. Additionally several Scouts helped at the Ramsden Bellhouse Village fete. We are aiming for these two Challenge Badges to be finished during the autumn term from September.

In all there are nine Challenge Badges and to attain the Chief Scouts Gold Award the Scouts must complete eight.

Scouts finished with the end of term barbeque and 'mass' rounders match, involving Scouts Cubs and parents. A great evening was had by all - good weather and excellent food.

Weekly Scout meetings started on the 8th September when we were at



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the Warley Karting Track. A good time was had by all, especially the budding Lewis Hamilton's! We followed on 10th September by our activity camp at Belchamps Scout Centre. Many activities were enjoyed and badges gained. There will be plenty of other activities in the following weeks and months. Hope you had a great summer and will have a good Christmas.

Omega - Assistant Scout Leader



Cub Report

Our Summer Cub camp was a great success and we had very good weather which makes a great difference. Most of the camp was working towards the Essex County Challenge Badge, the main theme of the camp was learning about the homeless. The highlight for the cubs was making and sleeping in cardboard boxes, which when finished we called cardboard city. Once leaders had made sure the boxes were secured (with lots of tape) cubs settled down for the night, and surprisingly all cubs slept soundly. One group even had to be woken up in the morning. Working on the county challenge badge has made the pack aware of many issues we would not normally consider in our programme, examples are the homeless and Fairtrade produce. One Wednesday we had an evening talking about how the Fairtrade logo started then we had games using the Fairtrade produce. Games are a good way to let young people understand without being too repetitive and boring. We have also made bird boxes which were kits obtained by Baghara (Jonathan Creese) and they even came with their own hammer which the cubs loved. When finished cubs then painted the boxes (and themselves) red - green - yellow and blue. I hope birds in the area like being in boxes that look like they came from IKEA!!

Akela

Baptist Church
Carols by Candlelight
Sunday December 12th

Sienna^X

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The Friends of St Mary's

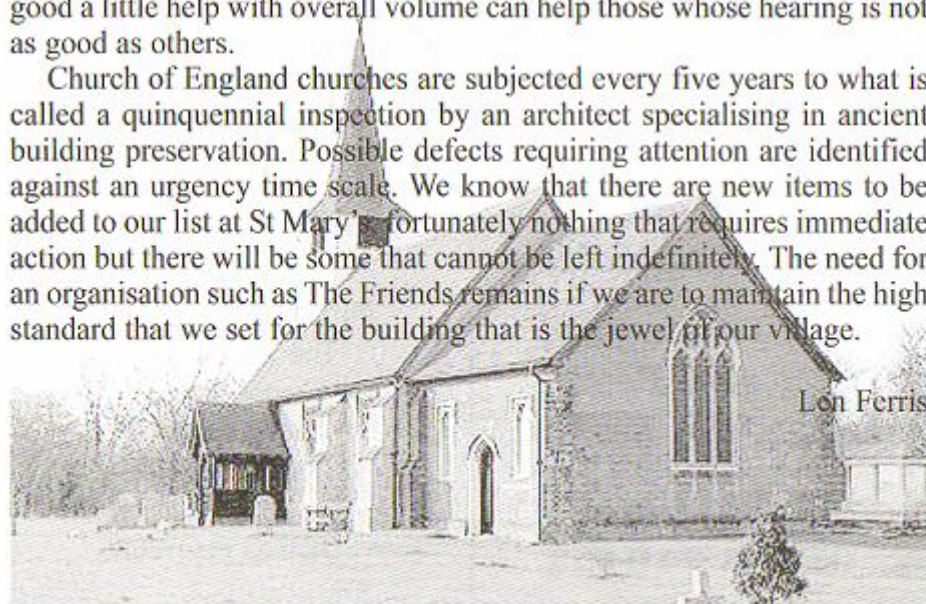
Over the last two years our fund raising efforts have been targeted on the cost of the new annexe. This has now been completed, in full use and proving to be a great improvement on the previous facilities.

The Archdeacon dedicated the new extension and expressed his pleasure in seeing new work that was so sympathetic with the existing that it enhanced the more ancient building. The final contract acceptance inspection took place in September and with the proceeds from the August Bank Holiday Flower Festival the work was completed within the available funds. Although the financial contribution from the Friends might be considered modest by comparison with some it was still important especially so when the value of the practical help that some members were able to provide is included.

With the completion of the annexe we know we cannot rest on our laurels for long. With a listed ancient building to look after there is always something that needs doing.

When the completion of the building work was in sight Audrey and Alan Pegrum took it upon themselves, with the approval of the Church Council, to provide a new sound system for the church. They set about raising the necessary funds by having an all day coffee morning at their house and then placing the order for the work. The system is now working fine and although the fundamental acoustics of the church are extremely good a little help with overall volume can help those whose hearing is not as good as others.

Church of England churches are subjected every five years to what is called a quinquennial inspection by an architect specialising in ancient building preservation. Possible defects requiring attention are identified against an urgency time scale. We know that there are new items to be added to our list at St Mary's - fortunately nothing that requires immediate action but there will be some that cannot be left indefinitely. The need for an organisation such as The Friends remains if we are to maintain the high standard that we set for the building that is the jewel of our village.



Len Ferris

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Isabel's Garden Party



Planting hanging baskets



Jill does the teas etc at the Garden Party



Planting hanging baskets



Pre-School and Horticultural plant hanging baskets



Art Show



Baptist Church Anniversary Lunch



Vivienne sells raffle tickets at the Art Show



Flower Festival St Mary's Church

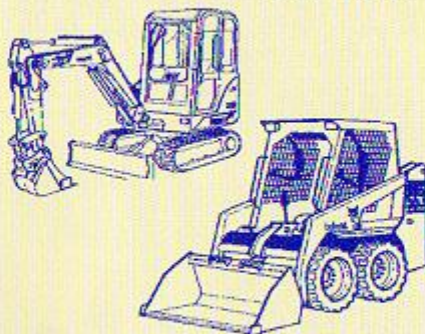


Village Fete hot dogs and beef burgers

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London Marathon

*Fleet of Foot by Bryan Laval-Chesterton, Member of the Ramsden
Bellhouse Ballroom Dancing Club*

Sundays for me are normally meant for a Quickstep or a Slow Foxtrot around the dance floor during the evening at the Ramsden Bellhouse Village Hall, but during the Spring of 2010 I chose to do just a little extra.

In summer of 2009 I applied and was accepted for the Virgin London Marathon, so training started on 25th October (being 6-months before the run date). Training wasn't too bad through the first few months with runs between 5 and 10 miles, or generally under an hour, and the weather was OK. December and January were a bit harder, the required distances are longer and this was not helped by cold temperatures and a few weeks of snow. But those miles won't run themselves and so out I went in all weathers. Sunday mornings become the weekly long runs, up into the 'teens' of miles peaking in March at 21 miles (or three times round

Billericay). Correct footwork and energetic Jives and Sambas are not so easy on Sunday evenings after that level of training!

I had booked in for the Brentwood Half Marathon on March 21st both for the distance and the experience of running in a crowd. This Half Marathon was a good event with fine weather and excellent organisation, and also my support crews at miles 2 and 9 helping me to get round in a pleasing 1 hour 37 mins.

All was looking good and there was nothing to stop me for the off at the London Marathon, or so I thought. But I hadn't accounted for any volcanoes getting in the way. We were booked for a 2-week holiday from Easter weekend, going to Dubai, due to fly home on Sunday 18th April, one week before the London Marathon. But then things went a bit wrong. That volcano in Iceland started spewing volcanic ash and the powers that be deemed it unsafe to fly. So we waited in Dubai, only securing a flight home on Sunday 25th (the day of the Marathon) and landing on Monday 26th. So I missed the start by one day. Not good.

Luckily I spotted the Halstead and Essex Marathon was due to be run two weeks later on May 9th. A route around villages in Essex and a field of maximum 750 (as opposed to the 35,000 in London). So I entered, striking while my training was still 'valid' and my marathon fitness was there.

The day went fine with the weather being dull and grey, but no sun, rain or wind and I finished in 3 hours 34 minutes and 58 seconds. It sounds even better when I can say I finished in 12th place (but there were only 650 in the race). And no walking and no injuries. And I went dancing that Sunday evening.

I had collected sponsorship from friends and family and whatever was pledged was to be doubled by my employer (LloydsTSB Bank), so my £360 of sponsorship has become £720 on behalf of the Essex motor Neurone Disease. Thanks to all who sponsored me.

The History of your Village in Pictures
Saturday February 26th 2.00pm - 5.00pm
Sunday 11.00am - 5.00pm
Village Hall

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Bowls

How quickly time flies, yet another newsletter from the Bowls Club. It seems ages away but we did celebrate one of our founder member's 90th Birthday, Bert Edwards. What a lovely day was had by all. Not only does he usually get the bowls on the "jack" but is a wizard at quizzes. He is certainly a very good partner to have on your team.

We had the village fete with the bowls club being able to make a substantial contribution for the designated charity and also there was the garden party held at a member's garden and what a wonderful day this was with garden games and activities plus, of course, gorgeous food. Again the weather was very kind to all.

We have some new members, two have never played before and are doing well. Bowls were borrowed from the club at first until they were happy to acquire their own woods.

As the weather does not affect our games, we are lucky to be able to play uninterrupted throughout the year.

The Club entered a team for the Mid Essex Summer League held at Stonyhills, Brentwood, Sue Pledger, John Finn, Sylvia and Tom Ealham which was played over six weeks with the team playing very well thereby winning the championship and the trophy, congratulations to all.

The Club's own championships took place with Derek Jackson and Roy Richards winning the Pairs and Tom Dines taking the Singles.

We have been playing "friendlies" throughout the summer but now looking forward to entering the league matches with the Rooks and Ravens competing. Good luck to all.

Carol Finn



Dog Training

Well, what a season Ramsden B.D.T.C. have had everyone seems to be winning classes, except for me of course still I keep trying you never know, perhaps my little Charm will do it for me when she is old enough!! Coz she is 'Gorgeous' - sorry Jill couldn't resist and yes Tye is 'Handsome'. If they get half as good as Sonny or Jazz we will be doing alright - congrats to those two both qualified and working ticket now. Hopefully we will see Gill at Crofts soon. Congrats to Val and Hannah who are now working B & C having won out of A

recently. Well done to Doreen and Milo winning a Beginner, it was my pleasure to award you this win as he worked wonderfully hope he gets his 2nd win soon. Derek and Storm also won Pre Beginner, so good luck with your Beginners. Sheila and Lulu also winning out of Novice recently well done - keep it up ALL of you and I'll try and catch up one day. Classes are at present pretty well attended and seem to be running smoothly. 'Hopefully' everyone is getting their heads around the changes to Tuesdays, it seems to be working in your favour going by all the wins above, everyone seemed to come away from Baddow's open show with a rosette of some description - keep it up. Well its our Open Show tomorrow so here's hoping all goes well - thanks to everyone for putting in the effort. Good luck for the rest of the season.

Rita Barber - Secretary



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Teddies for Tragedies Essex Branch

It has been an extremely busy summer, with a further 5070 teddies being distributed to Zambia, Montenegro, Kenya, Sri Lanka, Romania, Kosovo and Bulgaria, which brings the grand total up to 263,966 since 1995.



In July Hope & Aid Direct took a convoy to Montenegro to refugees who had been living in appalling conditions since 1999. We were able to send lots of blankets and knitted cardigans and jumpers ready for their winter, over 800 toiletry margarine boxes, children's shoes, lots of pasta and rice as they were very short of food and, of course, teddies and clowns for the children. I recently received a letter from somebody working in Montenegro and Kosovo which said "On the occasions when your teddies have been distributed in Kosovo and now in Montenegro without fail they excite a pleasure and joy on the part of the recipients that always makes the day seem worthwhile".

Another delivery was to an Eye Camp in Sri Lanka so that each child who had treatment was given a teddy, and closer to home one of the head teachers at Downham School visited Romania during the summer holidays and was able to take teddies with her. She distributed some in an orphanage and some to poor families living in shacks. In one of these shacks lived a mother with three children aged between two and nine. All three girls received a teddy and were thrilled. The family are very poor and the father does not have a job; so goes round the village finding odd jobs. The mother has cancer and there is no money for medical treatment. She is very scared. The teddies brought so much colour into their home and smiles on their faces.

The convoy going to Kosovo and the surrounding area has just been to collect from me. Again we were able to give them over 700 margarine boxes filled with toiletries - always a bar of soap and a face flannel - lots of blankets and knitted garments, children's shoes, 2400 teddies and 260 clowns as they are going into 12 kindergarten schools as well as orphanages, hospitals etc. Thank you all so much for all the margarine boxes you save for me and all the toiletries you give to me. It is so good to get stories back and know everything gets

there and is very much appreciated.

Now a little story much closer to home. One of my knitters who lives in South Woodham Ferrers told me that earlier in the year when her husband was terminally ill a doctor from their surgery came often to visit him at home and saw the teddies and clowns sitting on her settee. Some time later, after her husband had died, she visited the surgery and the doctor asked if she was still knitting and could she make some for his surgery, as often children cry when they come to see him. As a result he now has a teddy and clown sitting on his desk to amuse the children and a teddy sits in the nurse's room too. He very kindly sent me a donation and isn't it good to think we are helping children who at that time may be feeling very poorly.

I must now put on my 'Shoe Box' hat and get boxes ready to go out in November to bring joy and cheer this Christmas.

Audrey Pegrum MBE
Essex Branch Organiser



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Chicken Merengo

4 Chicken joints
2 tablespoons oil
½oz butter
1 onion peeled and chopped
1 stick celery cleaned and chopped
2 rashers of streaky bacon derinded and chopped
1½oz tablespoons flour
¼ pint chicken stock
1 x 15oz can tomatoes
3 tablespoons sherry
¼ teaspoon salt pepper
1 bouquet garni
2oz small mushrooms sliced
2 carrots peeled amd sliced

Fry the chicken joints in the oil and butter until browned. Remove from pan and place in casserole. Lightly fry the vegetables in the remaining fat. Stir in the flour and cook for one minute. Stir in the stock bring to the boil and stir until thickened. Add bacon, tomatoes, sherry, seasoning, bouquet garni and mushrooms to the pan. Stir and pour over chicken joints and cook for one and a half hours at 180 celsius, 350E Gas 4. till chicken is tender. Remove bouquet garni before serving.

If vegetable mix is too thick add a little extra chicken stock. I usually find more stock is needed otherwise it cooks dry.

Joan Wright



To All at Sunday Dancing

I would like to thank you all very much for the most wonderful surprise party at the Chichester (you could not have given me a better present). Also for the buffet at the Hall where you not only took over to give me the night off but some really lovely gifts. Thank you again and thank you all for being such a lovely lot of people.

Joan

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 the
churches

We were very pleased to welcome Ven. David Lowman, Archdeacon of Southend to St Mary's on 1st August to dedicate the new annex to the church; the service was attended by about 40 people. This marked the culmination of the project to provide new toilets and kitchen with direct access from the Church through a new door in the north wall. Thanks are due to all who contributed to the provision of these facilities, particularly to Len Ferris for the planning and to him and

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Beryl and Ray Clements for their hours of work decorating the new annex. Thanks are also due to Ernie Skinner, Dick Wellbourne and Clive Jeffree for their work in demolishing the old toilet.

The floral displays at The Flower Festival over the August Bank Holiday were as usual of a high standard, and much admired by the visitors. The outside activities, however, were plagued by persistent high winds. On Sunday one of the tents was blown apart by the wind, leaving the stalls exposed to the rain later in the day. Weather conditions meant the Songs of Praise, normally held in the open air, had to be moved into the Church, which was full for the occasion. The event raised in the region of £2100.

Our joint activities with our friends at the Baptist Church continue. The Baptist congregation came to St Mary's on 17th July and the return visit to their church on the 17th October will probably have taken place before you read this. On 14th November both congregations will get together with the Cubs, Scouts and many villagers at the Village Hall at 10:45am for the annual Remembrance Day Service.

On the fund-raising front, our Spring Fair on 1st May raised £502, and a garden party at Isabel Johnson's house on 13th July raised £482 towards the expenses in the staging of the Flower Festival. The Autumn Fair will take place on 6th November from 11am to 2:30pm in the Village Hall.

Our Quiz Nights continue to attract a number of regular teams, but newcomers are always welcome. The quiz in April raised £434 for Village Hall Funds, and our next one will be at the Village Hall on 20th November commencing at 7:30pm prompt, the proceeds going towards this year's Village Charity Effort the Motor Neurone Disease Association. If you would like to enter a team (six maximum), please get in touch with Alan on 01268 710757. Cost is £6 per head including supper. Quizzes next year are on 5th February (Church Funds), 2nd April (for Village Hall Funds) and 19th November (for Charity).

Christmas arrangements at St Mary's include the Carol Service on Thursday 16th December at 7:30pm, Carol Singing in the Village on Thursday 23rd December and our usual Midnight Holy Communion on Christmas Eve commencing at 11:30pm. A warm welcome awaits you at these, or any of our regular services.

Alan Pegrum



St Mary's Flower Festival

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Personal Page

Congratulations to

Joan Kelly on the birth of her Great Granddaughter **Bethany Freya** who was born on 23rd August 2010 weighing 8lbs 9ozs making **Abigail** and **Iain** very proud parents. She has made **Joan Kelly** a delighted Great Grandmother who was introduced to her when 10 days old.

Sue Pledger, John Finn, Sylvia Ealham and Tom Ealham, representing the Ramsden Bellhouse Short Mat Bowls Club, who won this year's Mid Essex Summer Bowls League

In Memory of

Ada Caroline Kent aged 95 who died on September 1st. She lived with her daughter at Tree Top, Glebe Road for many years. Our sympathy goes out to Shelia Smith and family.



Ballroom Dancing

Dancing is going well with members up to a healthy number. Our summer has been good. Bryan ran a marathon for our charity and made good time and good money. Well done and thanks Bryan. The Summer Ball went well, we have also celebrated a 1st Wedding Anniversary and two 70th Birthdays and are now looking forward to our 4th Charity Country and Western night with the Dreamweavers. Should anybody be interested tickets are £6 each from 710260 and bring your own drink and nibbles / food. Strictly is back, if only we were that good, if only Anton was on a one to one for 4 - 6 hours a day for 3 months plus, I'm sure we would improve. Its nice to dream but back to earth and our social night with tea and biscuits, but we enjoy it. Maybe see you soon, new faces most welcome. Sundays from 7.30pm £2.50 each phone 710260

Badminton

Despite the unavailability of most of the club members to help at the Village Fete, our china smashing stall went ahead with the hard work of Chris and Terry and a number of non-member volunteers. Our thanks to all involved.

In early August we paid a visit to Capel Manor Gardens, Enfield, followed by a trip into the town for a meal in Prezzo. It was a very pleasant and enjoyable day and well worth going if you are interested in horticulture. Our thanks to Glenys for organising it and to Malcolm for getting all of us the restaurant 2-for-1 vouchers (bargain).

We play badminton on Fridays 8pm - 10pm so if you are reasonably experienced at the sport and would like to come along, you would be very welcome. Please phone Derek on 710613 or Gill on 710818. Guest fees are £3.00 for the two hours.

Gill Winter




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RAMSDEN BELLHOUSE - CRAYS HILL - BASILDON 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, Shephard & 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, Shephard & 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

WICKFORD - RAMSDEN HEATH - CHELMSFORD

Mondays to Saturdays	* NS	* NS	* S	* 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								
Chelmsford, Bus Station	....	....	0855	1055	1255	1455	1555	1655	1755	1855
Galleywood, The Eagle	....	....	0908	1108	1308	1508	1608	1708	1808	1907
RAMSDEN HEATH, White Hse.	0723	0726	0919	1119	1319	1519	1633	1719	1833	1932
Wickford, Rail Station	0733	0736	0929	1129	1329	1529	1640	1729	1841	1940

NS = Not Saturdays S = Saturdays only
* = Operates via South and West Hanningfield as Service 15A

WICKFORD - CRAYS HILL - BILLERICAY - QUEENS PARK

Mondays to Fridays						NSch				
Wickford, opp. Swans	0625	0725	0835	0925		1425	1525	....	1625	1725
CRAYS HILL, Shep. & Dog	0634	0734	0844	0934		1434	1534	....	1634	1734
Billericay, Rail Stn.	0647	0747	0857	0947	Then	1447	1547	....	1647	1747
Queens Pk., Arl. Way	0653	0753	0905	0955	hourly	1455	1555	....	1655	1755
Billericay, Rail Stn.	0700	0800	0910	1000	until	1500	1600	1600	1700	1800
CRAYS HILL, Shep. & Dog	0712	0812	0922	1012		1512	1612	1612	1712	1812
Wickford, opp. Swans	0719	0819	0929	1019		1519	1619	1619	1719	1819
Saturdays										
Wickford, Halls Cnr.	0723	0823	0933	1023	Then	1223	1323	Then	1523	1623
CRAYS HILL, Shep. & Dog	0728	0828	0938	1028	Then	1228	1328	Then	1528	1628
Billericay, Rail Stn.	0743	0846	0956	1046	Then	1246	1346	Then	1546	1646
Queens Park, Arl. Way	0750	0853	1003	1053	hourly	1253	1350	hourly	1550	1650
Billericay, Rail Stn.	0755	0902	1012	1102	hourly	1302	1355	hourly	1555	1655
CRAYS HILL, Shep. & Dog	0807	0914	1024	1114	hourly	1314	1407	hourly	1607	1707
Wickford, Halls Cnr.	0812	0922	1032	1122	hourly	1322	1412	hourly	1612	1712

NSch = Not School Days
Saturday journeys operate to and from The Wick
Sunday journeys operate through from Southend
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

NOVEMBER

Saturday 6th	St Mary's Autumn Fair	11.00am - 2.00pm	Village Hall
Saturday 13th	Whist Drive	7.30pm	Village Hall
Sunday 14th	Remembrance Service	10.45am	Village Hall
Saturday 20th	Quiz Night (details 01268 710757)	7.30pm	Village Hall
Saturday 27th	Christmas Bazaar	Midday	Village Hall
Tuesday 30th	Parish Council Budget Meeting	7.30pm	Village Hall

DECEMBER

Saturday 11th	Whist Drive	7.30pm	Village Hall
Sunday 12th	Carols by Candlelight	4.00pm	Baptist Church
Thursday 16th	Carol Service	7.30pm	St Mary's Church
Saturday 18th	Crunch	9am - Midday	Village Hall
Thursday 23rd	Carol Singing in Ramsden Bellhouse		
Friday 24th	Midnight Mass	11.30pm	St Mary's Church
Saturday 25th	Christmas Day Service	10.30am	Baptist Church

JANUARY 2011

Saturday 8th	Whist Drive	7.30pm	Village Hall
Tuesday 12th	Parish Council	7.30pm	Village Hall
Sunday 30th	Village Hall AGM	3.00pm	Village Hall

FEBRUARY

Saturday 5th	Quiz Night (details 01268 710757)	7.30pm	Village Hall
Saturday 12th	Whist Drive	7.30pm	Village Hall
Saturday 26th	History of Ramsden	2.00 - 5.00pm	Village Hall
Sunday 27th	History of Ramsden	11.00am - 5.00pm	Village Hall

MARCH

Saturday 12th	Whist Drive	7.30pm	Village Hall
Saturday 12th	Crunch	9.00am - Midday	Village Hall
Tuesday 15th	Parish Council Meeting	7.30pm	Village Hall
Saturday 26th	Horticultural Spring Show	2.30pm	Village Hall

APRIL

Saturday 2nd	Quiz Night (details 01268 710757)	7.30pm	Village Hall
Saturday 9th	Whist Drive	7.30pm	Village Hall

Village Directory

Police	Wickford Police Station	561312
	Basildon Police Station	532212
Village Hall	Chairman - Clive Jeffree	710559
	Booking Secretary - Vivienne Fisher	07772 630513
		01268 531441
	Secretary - Abby Short	01268 711675
Magazine	Treasurer - Derek Swan	710478
	Editor - Isabel Johnson	710428
	Advertising - Isabel Johnson	710428
Badminton	Fridays 8pm - 11pm - Tanzy Bailey	01277 625555
Ladies Badminton	Thursdays 1pm - 3pm - Glyn Yeldham	769562
Dog Training	Monday (except 3rd in month)	
	7.15pm - 10pm - Rita Barber	01702 231189
St Mary's Church	Church Wardens - Beryl Clements	01245 601298
	- Len Ferris	710165
Horticultural	3rd Monday in the month except July, August and December	
	- Joan Lewis	710893
Ladies Medau	Thursday 8pm - Veronica Greenwood	01702 559914
Cubs	Wed 5.45pm - 7.15pm - Janet Jeffree	710559
Scouts	Wed 7.30pm - 9.30pm except 2nd Wed in month	
	- Clive Jeffree	710559
Baptist Church	Geoff Griggs	01245 471990
Bowls	Mon 7.30pm	
	Wed 10am	
	Fri 1.30pm - Kay Debenham	710765
Dancing Club	Every Sunday 7.30pm - 10.30pm	
	General Dancing - Joan Telkman	710260
Whist Drive	Derek Jackson (see Village Events)	710613
Line Dancing	Every Monday 2.00pm - 3.00pm	Ken Dobson 710771
Essex County Library Mobile Van	is at the Village Hall every Wednesday 4.20pm - 4.35pm	
Jump Ahead Preschool	Mon to Fri 9.30am - Carol Parker	01268 712930
Website	www.ramsdenbellhouse.info	



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