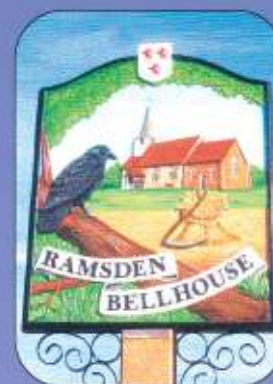


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Village Magazine
Winter 2012



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A Word from the Editor

I want to take this opportunity to talk about a certain group of people in this village. Sounds ominous? Actually quite the reverse.

Throughout the year, a great many public social events happen, based round the Village Hall, the Church, and a few private ones. They give a lot of enjoyment and raise money for charities and for the community. When the public arrive, the scene is set with marquees, stalls etc.

But this does not just happen. Before the event, some very public spirited people, sometimes not even involved with the organisation concerned, are working away setting the scene. Sometimes they start at 7am or 8am to get the venue ready for our enjoyment, and basically it's the same little band of helpers at most events. As they get older, many have to give up, and unfortunately replacements are not readily available. So please think about all those who put up the marquees, carry the chairs and tables from one venue to another, man the stalls, cook the refreshments and do the organisation. Think of them at the end, when the process goes into reverse, and it's usually the same dedicated few who were up at the crack of dawn, and are not in the first flush of youth, who are putting away and tidying up.

And so through the medium of this magazine, I feel sure you would like me to praise and thank these people. Ramsden Bellhouse as a community could not function without them. Are you public spirited enough to give your help as well as your thanks?

And, would you believe it these same people meet every so often at the Village Hall, and make sure that the Hall is in good running order and that the grounds are neat and tidy. Since the Hall was opened in 1936 there has always been a band of such volunteers (not the same ones, I hasten to add!) We hope that our village will continue to produce such public minded citizens who will carry on this service to the Village. Once again through the medium of this magazine we thank you.

Sincere thanks as usual to everyone involved in the production and delivery of this magazine. Copy for the next one by March 20th either to me or preferably Email to bryan.diggory@sky.com. If you set your copy on a PC and have use of the internet then please do send your copy direct to Bryan as this saves a lot of time and speeds up the process of producing this magazine.

Isabel Johnson

PHOTOS BY DICK WELLBORNE AND PETER DEBENHAM

Chairmans Report

This is the 10th year I have been chairman how time flies. It does not seem possible but facts are facts. I hope that I can carry on for while longer, who can tell.

This year is the first time for many years that we have not had an Art Show over the August Bank holiday. This arose as Joan had to go in hospital at a critical point and the event had to be cancelled. She is now out and doing fine. It can be said that she is making great strides in her recovery!! She tells me that she may in future be willing to run the Art Show again. We are keeping our fingers crossed.

A further change this year was the running of the Summer Flower Show in the old hall on the Fete day. The Fete was opened by the Celebrity (LINZI PEEL - formally from the T.V. show TOWIE). The Flower Show was judged during the late morning all the certificates were laid out ready for the visitors. The Double event proved a success and will be carried out again next year.

The charity this year (The J's Hospice, Chelmsford) is proving a great success. The accounts look like heading for a record, mainly thanks to several garden parties over the summer period. These parties were held in private gardens so we must thank all involved. Mr & Mrs Banks of Homestead Road, Mr & Mrs Hodivala of Ramsden Park Road and Mrs Isabel Johnson of Orchard Avenue for allowing their gardens to be used for raising money for charity.

Without depressing you all we are heading for winter. The hall will be holding several events over this period so keep a watch on the hall Web Site for times and dates and please try to support us when you can. By the next magazine Christmas will have come and gone so I will take this opportunity of wishing you a happy celebration and a Happy New Year.

C. Jeffree

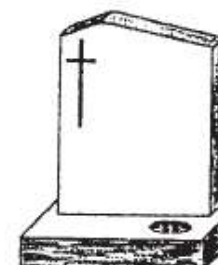
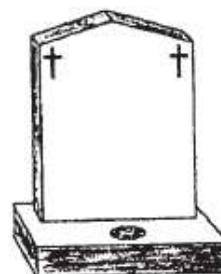
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Table Tennis

An opportunity has arisen to start up Table Tennis in Ramsden Bellhouse Village Hall. The time available will be possibly between 10 and 12 Sunday a.m. We realise that everybody won't be able to attend every Sunday, especially in the summer, but you will only have to pay when you attend.

Any age 18 - 100!! will be welcome, any standard.

At present we're in the process of acquiring tables and the Village Hall has kindly loaned us one and we have applied to the BDC Sports council for funding to buy some more, plus equipment.

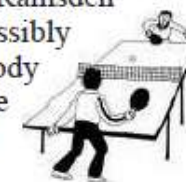
We anticipate starting the beginning of October.

We already have a number of interested people and if this is of interest to you please email or telephone as below and spread the word.

Jan & Brian Smith

Email: janet.smith28@sky.com.

Tel: 01268 763713



Baptist Church

Church Services: Every Sunday at 10.30 am (Communion is normally on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month). Prayer Meetings and a Monthly Bible Study are held at a members house on Wednesdays at 7.30 pm. An informal "Drop In" is held in the Church Hall every Monday from 10.30 am. It is simply called "Monday Morning". All are welcome to any of these meetings.

As most of you are aware that we are still without a Pastor at this time. Rev. Geoffrey Griggs left us over a year ago and we are still seeking a replacement.


Our Moderator, the Rev Jon Stannard has been a great support and encouragement to us all over this period. He will soon be leaving us to take up a full time pastorate at West Leigh Baptist Church and we wish him the Lord's blessing in this new position. Jon has been working as the National Director of Viz-A-Viz Ministries, a Christian charity based in Basildon to promote "Relevant communication of the Gospel to people today". Over the past four weeks, on Wednesday evenings, Jon has been leading us through a course produced by Viz-A-Viz called "More to Life" which has been very thought provoking. We have another four sessions to go, for the second part of the course.

Over the months since Geoff left us we have had a variety of preachers at our services from other churches. They have brought words to challenge, encourage and build us up in our faith. We are very grateful to them and members of our congregation who have contributed to our services and been a support in so many ways. We particularly thank the Rev Ray Bolton who preached a series on the "1 am" sayings of Jesus over six weeks during the first quarter at 2012.

Our Tea, coffee and chat group meet on a Monday morning from 10.30am to midday. This is a very casual and relaxed get together, and we are very grateful to Audrey Pegrum from St Mary's in opening up and doing much in advance of people arriving. It is very good to meet together and meet and make friends with others from various churches and any others who come. You can arrive at any time from 10.30am and stay as long as is convenient for you. All are very welcome.

Please do pray for us as we continue to look to the Lord's leading and guiding in all that we do and wisdom in our search for a new minister. Also please pray for members of our congregation who are going through difficult and sad time in their lives.

Roger Newton - Church Secretary



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Dog Training



This is going to have to be short as I am in the midst of doing all the show paperwork.

We have had a very successful year with our members doing very well at open show level, Jill Head with Blue and Pat Keeble with Maddie have progressed to 'C' only. With Val Dean and Hannah having won their first 'B' they are also on the way to 'C' only, good luck Val for next season. Debbie Spooner has won out of novice with River, Pam Stare with Finny has won out of pre-beginner, and beginner = go girl! Gill Winyard in her own brilliant way has won out of novice with Little Fidget. Derek and June Robinson both won beginners last week at Plantation Park, with Heidi and Storm, brill you two. So we have been eating lots of cakes. And I believe Sheila Lunn has also won 'A' so more cakes on the way.

Thanks to everyone for their input into the tombolas that we run for the hall events, keep it up - Pat Cooper or Sandie will be pleased to receive all donations for future events.

Rita Barber - Secretary



Badminton Club

The Badminton Club meets most Friday Evenings at the village hall from 8.00pm until 10.00pm and new members are always welcome. Emphasis is upon social badminton so you do not need to be an experienced league player to come along and enjoy yourself.

Why not pop in and have a go to see if it's for you, the first couple of weeks are free and after that pay as you play is always an option. No need to worry about annual subscriptions so nothing to lose except a few calories!

We would love to see you one Friday soon.

Karen Pearce



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Teddies for Tragedies Essex Branch

During the summer 4250 teddies were distributed in Serbia, Moldova, Zambia, Sri Lanka and Kosovo. Those which went to Moldova, were for very poor children who went to summer camps for a holiday. Our grand total since 1995 now stands at 279,387 distributed to 56 different countries.



The convoy going to Kosovo came to collect from me in September and took 30 sacks of large knitted blankets, six sacks of cot/lap blankets, 20 sacks of knitted jumpers/cardigans, hats, slippers and booties, 2 sacks of soft shop toys, 4 sacks of shoes, 6 sacks of shop blankets, sheets, pillow cases, bedspreads etc. 1 sack of towels, 1 duvet, 1 fur jacket, 2 coats, 1081 margarine boxes filled with toiletries, 244 clowns and 1540 teddies. While in Kosovo, the convoy will be visiting schools, hospitals, homes and very poor communities. Hope & Aid Direct collect from all over the country and give a tremendous amount of help while out there. From items I've sold and donations, I was able to give £100 towards transport costs. Many thanks to everybody who supported me.

Now all this aid is on its way my thoughts turn to filling shoeboxes ready to leave me in November to get to their recipients in time for Christmas. By the time this magazine is published, I know many of you will have helped 'Bring a smile to someone this Christmas'. Through Blythwood Care these gift filled boxes are presented to vulnerable children and adults in 10 countries in Eastern Europe and South Asia, who otherwise would not get anything at all. The fact that someone cares brings a smile on their faces. Last year we were able to give over 450 boxes.

A very big thank you to everyone who has participated in this wonderful scheme.

Wishing you all every happiness this Christmas and good health in the coming year. God bless.

Audrey Pegrum MBE, Essex Branch Organiser



Mushroom Royal

Serves 2-4 people. 560 calories per portion

11oz (300 g) Potatoes peeled and cut
3oz (75g) Butter
9oz (250g) Mushrooms washed and sliced
½ Red pepper sliced
½ Yellow pepper sliced
1oz (25g) Flour
¼ pt (150ml) fresh milk
2 tspns (10ml) mustard
1tbsp (15ml) lemon Juice

METHOD

1. Cook Potatoes and mash them
 2. Melt the butter and fry the mushrooms and peppers for 5 minutes. Stir in the flour and milk and bring to the boil. Stir in the mustard and lemon juice and place in an oven proof dish.
 3. Spread the potato over the top and grill until golden. Piping the potato gives the dish a special finish.
- Ideal as a vegetarian main course or as an accompaniment to Poultry.*

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I was trying to lighten the weight of my handbag, and I came across some supermarket coupons. Most were out of date, but four were still viable. Well - we all have to think about saving the pennies.

I planned my weekly shop carefully. There were four coupons which collectively should save me £4.50 whilst shopping at two supermarkets. I had to spend £20 at each, which as I live on my own, would require careful planning, by buying items required in the future.

Thus armed with lists and coupons, I entered Supermarket No. 1, and acquired a trolley. This supermarket would deliver my shopping, and I should save £2.50 with three of my coupons. With gay abandon I filled my trolley - I don't usually buy that brand of yoghurt but 25p coupon is not to be ignored - and do I really need chocolate biscuits at 25p off. Still I am well into the spirit of the venture so into the trolley they go.

The first blow comes when I find I can only spend one coupon at a time, so I now have a yoghurt and chocolate biscuits at full price and my savings here is now only £2. But then on the strength of my saving I did buy some milky bar chocolate (my one luxury). Still press on to Supermarket No. 2. Here I take a basket as I cannot manipulate my shopping trolley as well as a supermarket trolley. A grave mistake as I plan to stock up with cake ingredients.

Again I am tempted with the thought of £2 off, and buy "another one luxury". At the Home Baking shelves I load up my basket. Think about it - two large caster sugar two large icing sugar, similar brown sugar - dried fruit - then horror of horrors I cannot lift my basket. If I put them back all the planning will be wasted as I will not have spent £20. With great embarrassment I push it round with my foot, dragging my own trolley with my hand. My basket is too full and I still have to get "Shredded Wheat" which I actually need.

I continue shuffling "it" along with my foot, and eventually find the Shredded Wheat. As the basket is already too full, the Shredded Wheat falls off the basket at regular intervals. I am acutely aware of the ridiculousness of my situation. I cannot lift the basket at the till, so unload it from floor level, which does an already aching back no good at all.

Luckily I have bought just enough to get my £2 reduction, but my own trolley is now too heavy for easy pulling. The assistant gives me my change, a cheery smile and ANOTHER COUPON for £2 off! I smile weakly.

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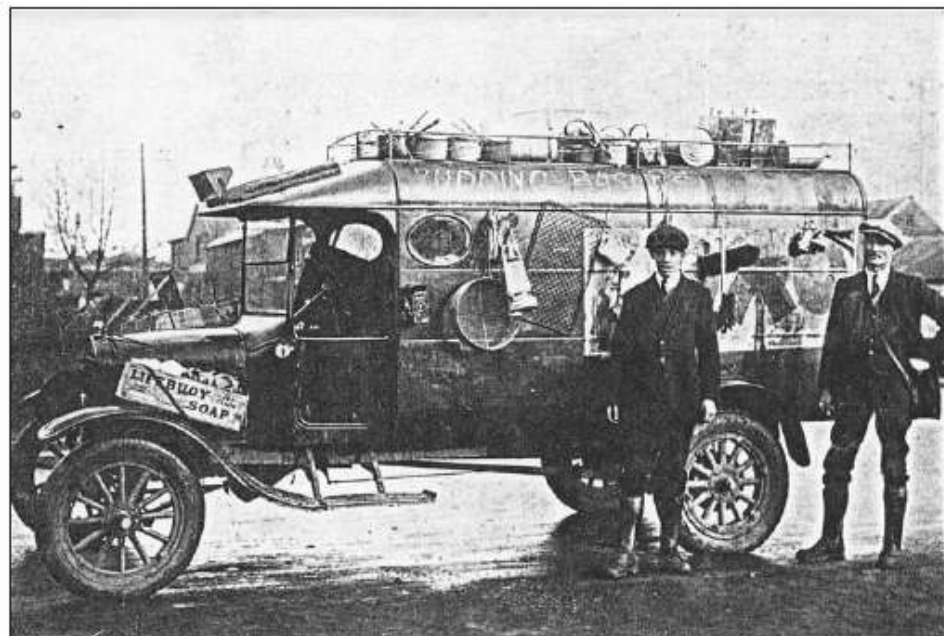
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On the way home my trolley falls over, but it does not matter for there are no eggs in it! At home I breath a sigh of relief and begin to unload my goodies - but why is there an empty sugar bag? The trolley fall has split the bag and the ensuing mess brings tears to my eyes, not helped by the realisation that I have saved nothing. A sadder and wiser person, I sit down and eat my two "one luxuries".

Isabel Johnson



Bygone Years



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Bowls Club

Since our last magazine we have not had much better weather but luckily for the bowls club this does not usually affect our ability to continue. Nevertheless our yearly garden party was a little or more than a little wet. But true Brits we carried on and had a wonderful time with the help



of a marquee. Games and competitions went on regardless with a very amusing arrangements of photographs with members adding their own captions, some on the slightly saucy side but nobody took offence (I hope). The winners of the garden party/competitions were Alan Pegram, Jack Mac and Brian Smith, which included shooting at a bell, (not a person) spinning top and guess how much money was in a jar. This event was supported by members giving a superb rendition of how to, or not to sing, much to the amusement of the onlookers.

The club competitions were doubles Kay Debenham and Peter Debenham (keeping it in the family) and Club Champion singles Bart Clements, well done. All have their names on the hall boards for posterity in case anybody forgets.

We will be soon starting the league matches, best of luck to all three teams, Rooks, Ravens and Robins.

We have all had an unforgettable year with the Queens Diamond Jubilee and of course the fantastic Olympics and Paralympics. Maybe we will see the short mat bowls at the next Olympics with Ramsden Bellhouse taking part. Here we come Rio Janerio. Book your tickets now to ensure that you get a place.

A short extract from a poem dedicated to bowls players :

"This bowling lingo to me is plain,
You're not up to it dear, do try again
Listeners can be excused a giggle
when the Skip says,
Give me one, up the middle"

Carol Finn

St Mary's Church

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

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

The friends of St Mary's Amble Ramble, took place on 5th May, when a dozen or so walkers explored the local footpaths, led by Kay and Peter Debenham, ending up at the Baptist Church for soup and rolls. The event raised £40 for the "Friends" funds.

St Mary's Garden Party took place on 10th July, with a lower than usual number attending. Nevertheless £310 was raised towards the cost of flowers for the Flower Festival, and we are very grateful to Isabel Johnson for the use of her garden.

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The Flower Festival took place as usual over the August Bank Holiday. On the Saturday afternoon, torrential rain marooned a number of people in the Church, but fortunately, there were no outside activities on that day. The rest of the weekend, when there were stalls and refreshments, including Ploughman's Lunches in the Church grounds, the weather was mixed, but remained dry. Probably the best weather was on Sunday afternoon, allowing the "Songs of Praise" service to be held in the open air. As a departure from the normal biblical theme, this year's floral displays, depicted Village Life Past and Present. Many thanks to the flower arrangers and stallholders, those who came along to assist erecting tents on Sunday morning and taking them down on Monday evening and all who helped in any way at this successful event, which raised £1850 for Church funds.

We continue to enjoy joint activities with our friends at the Baptist Church. Combined services were held at the Baptist Church on 8th July and at St Mary's on 10th October. On 11th November, members of both churches, the Cubs and Scouts and many people from the Village will gather at the Village Hall at 10:45 am for the annual Remembrance Day Service. Next year there will be a joint service at the Baptist Church at 10:30 am on 10th February, and on Palm Sunday, 24th March, members of both churches, together with people from the congregations of St Margaret's Downham and St Peter's South Hanningfield, will gather at the Baptist Church at 9:45 am for the distribution of palms and a procession to St Mary's for a combined service at 10 am.

On Monday mornings a drop-in coffee morning takes place at the Emmanuel Hall at the Baptist Church from 10:30 am to Noon. This is arranged jointly by the Baptist Church and St Mary's, but is not limited to church members. Everyone women or men, will be very welcome to drop in for a tea or coffee and a chat.

Fundraising events continue to be a necessary activity to help maintain our ancient church. The Spring Fair on 19th May raised £517. The Autumn Fair will be held at the Village Hall from 11 am to 2:30 pm on Saturday 3rd November. There will be cakes and Jams etc. on sale, and a number of other stalls, plus refreshments including our popular Ploughman's Lunches. We hope to see many of you there - admission is free.

Our Quiz nights are popular and well supported by our regulars, but there's always room for more. The quiz on the 26th May raised £388 for Village Hall funds, and our Charity Quiz, part of the Village Effort on

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WEDDING FLOWERS

behalf of the J's Hospice on the 20th October will no doubt be over before you read this. Our next Quiz, for St Mary's funds, will be on a date to be arranged in February next year. Teams of maximum six people are welcome, and if you would like to be on my contact list, please give me a ring on 01268 710757.

Finally, with Christmas approaching, please note our Carol service at St Mary's will be held on Thursday, 20th December at 7:30 pm. Our midnight Holy Communion service on Christmas Eve, begins at 11:30 pm. We would be very pleased to welcome you at these services or at any of our regular services as detailed at the beginning of this report.

Alan Pegrum



Carol Service
St Mary's Church
Thursday 20th December 7.30pm

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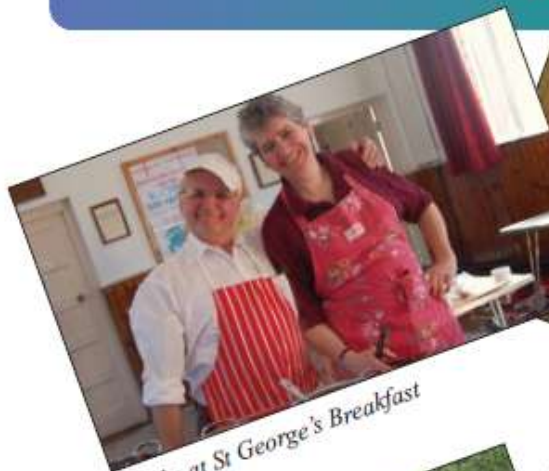
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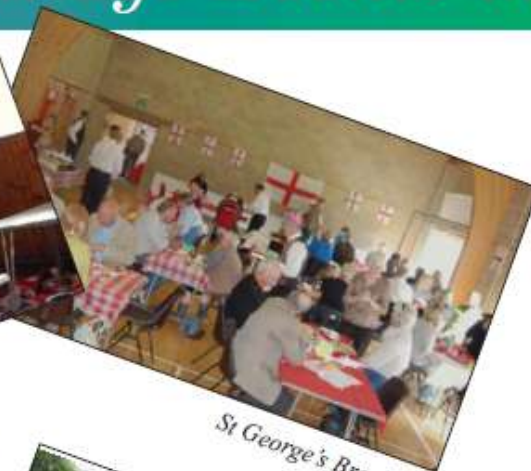
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St George's Breakfast



Line Dancing at Fete



Isabel's Garden Party. Bumpy Lawn Bowls



St Mary's Amble Ramble



Who's never grown up! Amble Ramble



Charity BBQ



Charity BBQ



Bowls Single Champion Bart receives cup from Roy



Doubles Champions Kay & Peter receive cup from Roy



Left:
Village Fete

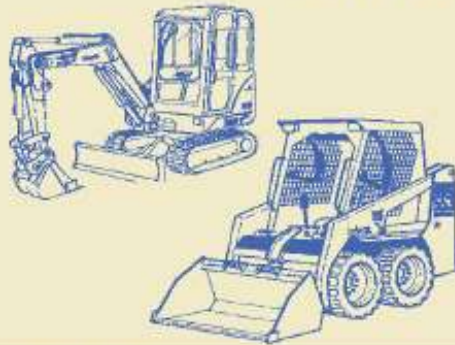


Right:
Flower Festival
Ann has a go at
ringing Church
Bells

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References Available

Pause for Thought - FROM ST MARY'S!

It's very strange writing this in September, with November in mind, especially as I've just come back from a weekend on a steam engine driver experience course - something I've always wanted to do, but assumed it would never happen - which it wouldn't have if it wasn't for a 'significant' birthday present last November!!

November seems to be a month for remembering significant events - on the 5th Guy Fawkes and the gunpowder plot; on the 11th we remember all those who gave so much in times of war, to bring us the freedom we have today. It's also a time when we as Christians relate this to the sacrifice Jesus made, as he gave his life for us to have peace and reconciliation with God. November is also a significant time in the Anglican church, because the last weekend in November sees the start of the church year, as we enter the season of Advent - a time when we look forward to celebrating Jesus' birth at Christmas, not only a time for giving and receiving gifts, but also remembering that Jesus came, because none of us are perfect and do things that hurt or upset others and God - so it's also a time to reflect upon how we live!

Perhaps, like me with the driver experience, Christianity is something you've wondered about, but have never quite got round to exploring, so why not give it a go!!

The family service on the 3'd Sunday of the month at 10:30 is a short informal service, with songs the children know from school and is presented in a simple and child friendly way.

All are welcome of any age to any of our services, so why not come along and discover something new - especially this Christmas time.

As always we hold the village and all who live here in our prayers, so if there is anything or anyone you'd like prayed for then do let me know and we will do so. Suzy.edmundson@talktalk.net.

For further information about services: www.downhamchurch.org.uk.

Rector Revd Stephen Robertson 01268 71037 0

Curate Revd Jean Andrews 01268 733817

Revd.Miranda Seaman is currently on maternity leave.

Reader Suzy Edmundson (E Mail as above)

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Fun Whist

The much chillier mornings are an indication that summer (such as it was weatherwise) is now on the wane and autumn is waiting in the wings. Fun whist was cancelled in July as the date clashed with the barbecue for the J's Hospice charity. Following that, the August and September evenings were poorly supported, maybe partly due to holidays and the Olympics, and September was a very early 'second Saturday' which may have led to confusion over dates. Looking forwards, towards Christmas, it would be lovely to have bumper crowds at the October and November evenings, with lots of friendly chat and laughter to help steer us through the dark winter evenings. December whist evening is the same day as the Christmas Bazaar and we will be celebrating with Christmas fare, rather than the usual tea and biscuits. Come along and give it a try.

Angela Hodivala

Horticultural

The end of our Summer break and our programme starts with the Autumn Show and a very good one it was. Some new people entered and won first place in several classes, we hope to see them in future shows. So far this year we have had a wide variety of speakers, from propagation to talks on dahlias, winning on the show bench and a social evening with still more speakers to come.

Our, Tea in the Garden" held in place of the Harvest supper, was a very successful afternoon making £2056.00 for the Village Charity J's Hospice. This included a very generous anonymous donation, thank you all who helped and gave Raffle prizes, also thank you Stock Village Nurseries for the plants on the plant stall. A black umbrella was left behind, Angela has it if it is yours.

We are always pleased to see any members past or present at our meetings held on the third Monday of every month at 8.00pm see notice board for details of speakers etc.

Marion Shillum



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Cub Pack & Scout Troop

As always the Cub & Scouts have been incredibly busy over the last few months. In June, as part of our 100 year celebrations, we held a family camp at Downe Scout Campsite in Kent. The camp was well attended by Cubs, Scouts and their parents and all had a great time.

Even the British weather was very kind to us for once!! The theme of the weekend was 100 years of Scouting and the activities reflected on how Scouting has changed over the last 100 years whilst still keeping the traditions and ideals that Baden Powell first introduced in 1907 when he took a small group of boys to Brownsea Island for the first ever Scout camp.

Each team had the opportunity to take part in 100 different activities such as back woods cooking, fire building, archery, knotting, soap carving, egg throwing and catching, scavenger hunt, orienteering, tracking and a loud sing song around a roaring campfire. The final event of the weekend involved building a large fort, constructing balistas or catapults and then firing water bombs at the leaders to score points for their team!!!

In August, the Scouts took part in the Essex Jamboree in Chelmsford. 9000 Scouts and Guides from all over the world were in attendance at the largest County Jamboree. They had an amazing experience taking part in activities such as, canoeing, caving, abseiling, circus skills, climbing and archery.

Every evening they had the opportunity to watch live bands, go to the onsite cinema, go to the disco or chill out in the cafes and meet with Scouts and Guides from all over the world. Some of 1st Ramsden and Downham's badges were given to Scouts from Nigeria and Canada, so our name has travelled far and wide.

So we are now in September and the start to another Scouting Year and already the next few months are looking incredibly busy and exciting. The Scouts are taking part in an overnight hike, where they carry all their own equipment on a 6 mile hike to a campsite in Wickham Bishops, cook their own meals, sleep over night, before packing up and hiking back another 6 miles. They will also be attending Winter Camp at Belchamps Campsite in February. The Cubs continue to work hard on their badges to ensure as many as them as possible achieve their Silver Award before they join the Scouts.

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They have also recently attended the fun day at Gilwell and after speaking to several of them, know they had a brilliant day. On a final note, there have been some changes since the last newsletter. After many, many years of service and dedication to 1st Ramsden and Downham, Janet Jeffree and Lynne Markey have decided to retire from their posts.

Both of them have been invaluable to the continued success of 1st Ramsden and Downham and everyone at the group wishes them a happy retirement. Due to Janet's retirement, any enquiries regarding the Cubs or Scouts should be directed to Paddy Smith 07838 252 963 paddysmith1@sky.com

Yours in Scouting Caroline Smith
Assistant Scout Leader



Personal Page

Congratulations to:

Pat Sparke of Homestead Road on the birth of a granddaughter **Clara, Philippa Ellen**. A daughter for Pip and Kiersten Sparke and a sister for Harry and Freddie.

Clive and Janet Jeffree of Homestead Road on their Golden Wedding Anniversary on September 1st.

Cyril and Marie Pegram of Orchard Avenue on the birth of their second great grandson **Felix**. A son for Sam and Katy Pegram.

Mark and Natasha Skinner on their marriage on the 14th September at St Mary's Church. Mark is nephew of Ernie Skinner of Ramsden Park Road.



Parish Council

Do you want access to high-speed Broadband services ?

The Parish Council are hoping to accelerate the availability of high-speed fibre or cable based broadband services in our village. Today we only have access to low speed service delivered over the BT telephone network. Neighbouring towns such as Billericay and Wickford already have access to the new high speed broadband offerings which are typically more than 10x faster than any broadband which Ramsden Bellhouse residents can obtain today.

To help speed up provision of these services in our village we ask all interested residents to please register their interest (no commitment necessary) in high-speed broadband at the following websites: www.bt.com/infinity (Check availability using your phone number and then press "register interest") <http://www.essex.gov.uk/Pages/Superfast-Essex-Broadband.aspx> (please complete the survey)

The Government have allocated funding to bring fibre based services



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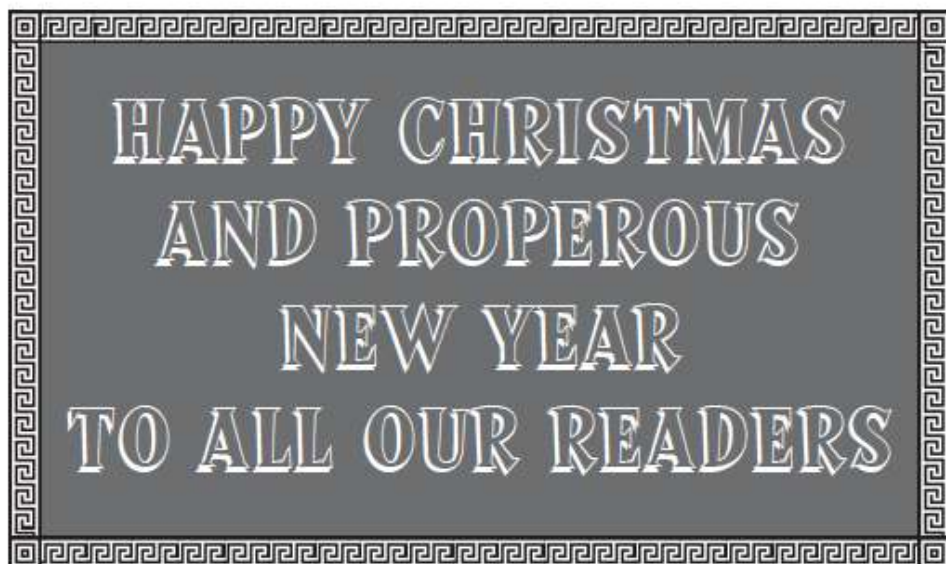
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to village communities. Priority will be given to those villages that demonstrate demand for the services so please spare a few moments to register your interest by visiting the websites above.

The Parish taxi voucher scheme helps those residents who have more limited mobility than the rest of us. This service, funded through the Parish Council taxes, continues to provide an important service that is deeply appreciated by those who have need of it. Applications for membership of the taxi voucher scheme are invited from any resident who believes they may qualify. Please email the Parish Council clerk Karen Plumridge at ramsdenbpccclerk@btinternet.com for further information.

The Parish Council welcomes your suggestions on what might be done to improve village life in Ramsden Bellhouse and your feedback on the services currently being provided. If you want your views to be heard please come along to a Parish Council meeting at the village hall. All Parish Council meetings are open to the public. These meetings are held in the village hall on Tuesday evenings. The meeting schedule is published on the notice board adjacent to the Village Hall.

Alan Harvey, Chairman, Ramsden Bellhouse Parish Council



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The Friends of St Mary's

In the Church of England every church has to be inspected by a specialist architect every five years known as the Quinquennial inspection. Although the inspection is paid for by the Diocese, any work found to be needed has to be paid for by the individual church. Our Quinquennial inspection took place in April this year and a moderate list of jobs to be done was the result. We have been through the list, prioritized the items and selected a few which should be proceeded within our financial resources but with VAT at 20% about which the precise position on listed buildings is still not entirely clear and other contingencies it is just a matter of guesswork until we get a firm quotation to work on.

The initial work we have given top priority to will cover repairs to some of the church porch timbers and the replacement of some of the tower weather-boarding which is showing signs of rotting. The main porch framework is the same age as the tower timbers i.e. 15th century with some more recent repairs. Unfortunately it is the consequence of some of the design features of this later work which has been partly responsible for the restoration work now needed. When we have a firm price for the work we can then apply for grants towards the cost of the work which involves supporting the porch roof while one of the ground beams is replaced.



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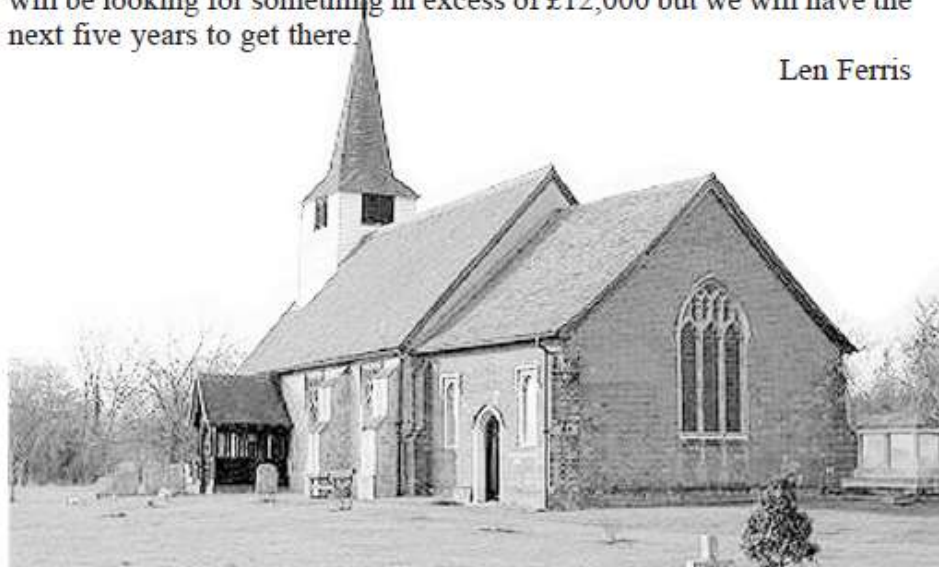
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The present financial climate is not conducive to obtaining grants for this work but if one doesn't try one can't hope to succeed.

The rest of the work listed in the inspection report is beyond our means at present. It includes the redecoration of the church interior and improving the internal lighting. For these two desirable projects we will be looking for something in excess of £12,000 but we will have the next five years to get there.

Len Ferris



Dancing

We have had a great year so far. Our Charity Square Dance was a great success with everyone having a good time. Maybe we will have them back next year, so thanks to everyone who supported us.

We again took part in the Village Fete having three stalls, which looked good with plenty of Union Jacks. But the rat got away every time! this year was a first for us, being asked to do a display in the Church for the Flower Festival. I hope you could guess which was the Dancing Club's effort. The Church looked and smelt wonderful.

Before the Summer Magazine, we have a Ruby Wedding, Halloween, Christmas, Burn's Night and Valentine's Day to celebrate. So have a happy Christmas and healthy 2013 everyone.

Joan Telkman

***Don't forget the Christmas Bazaar
Village Hall December 8th 12 noon***

COPY FOR SUMMER ISSUE

Thanks to everyone who sent their copy by email.
Please continue to do so as this is a great help and saves time.

Please send copy and photos for the next magazine by
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NISS 237

Monday to Saturdays	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
South Woodham Ferrers, Aids	0800	0900	1100	1300	1620
Wickford, Rail Station	0817	0919	1119	1319	1639
RAMSDEN HEATH, White Horse	0927	0929	1129	1329	1649
RAMSDEN BELLHOUSE, Glebe Road	0930	0932	1132	1332	1652
CRAYS HILL, Shephard & Dog	0934	0936	1136	1336	1656
Hilsea Gray Road, opp. B & Q	0940	0943	1143	1343	1703
Festival Leisure Park	....	0947	1147	1347	1707
Basildon, Bus Station Stand B	0948	0955	1155	1355	1715
Basildon, Hospital	0955	....	....	....	1720
Basildon Hospital	....	....	....	1725	1825
Basildon, Bus Station Stand B	1000	1008	1208	1400	1830
Festival Leisure Park	1008	1209	1400	1730	1838
Hilsea Gray Road, B&Q	1012	1212	1412	1742	1842
CRAYS HILL, Shephard & Dog	1019	1219	1419	1749	1849
RAMSDEN BELLHOUSE, Glebe Road	1023	1223	1423	1753	1853
RAMSDEN HEATH, White Horse	1026	1224	1426	1756	1856
Wickford, Rail Station	1036	1236	1436	1805	1906
South Woodham Ferrers, Aids	1055	1255	1455	1825	1925

WICKFORD - RAMSDEN HEATH - CHELMSFORD

Regular Buses 14

Monday to Saturdays	* NS	* NS	* S	NS
Wickford, Rail Station	0645	0735	0738	0855
RAMSDEN HEATH, White Horse	0655	0745	0749	0905
Galleywood, The Eagle	0719	0810	0813	0915
Chelmsford, Bus Station	0734	0827	0826	0929

Chelmsford, Bus Station	NS	S	* NS	* NS	* S	* NS
Galleywood, The Eagle	....	....	0855	1055	1255	1455
RAMSDEN HEATH, White Horse	0723	0726	0919	1119	1319	1519
Wickford, Rail Station	0733	0736	0929	1129	1329	1529

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

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NISS 222

Monday to Fridays	NSch	NSch	NSch	NSch	NSch
Billericay, Rail Stn.	0700	0800	0910	1000	1400
CRAYS HILL, Shep. & Dog	A	0710	0810	0920	1010
Wickford, opp. Swans	0625	0719	0835	0925	1019
Wickford, Halls Cnr.	0627	0725	0837	0927	1027
CRAYS HILL, Shep. & Dog	0633	0733	0843	0933	1033
Billericay, Rail Stn.	0647	0747	0857	0947	1047
Queens Pk, Arltn. Way	0653	0753	0903	0953	1055
Billericay, Rail Stn.	0700	0800	0910	1000	1100
Saturdays	0723	0823	0929	1023	1123
Wickford, Halls Cnr.	0730	0831	0941	1031	1131
CRAYS HILL, Shep. & Dog	0743	0846	0956	1046	1146
Billericay, Rail Stn.	0743	0846	0956	1046	1146
Queens Pk, Arltn. Way	0750	0853	1003	1053	1153
Billericay, Rail Stn.	0755	0902	1012	1102	1202
CRAYS HILL, Shep. & Dog	0807	0915	1025	1115	1215
Wickford, Halls Cnr.	0812	0922	1032	1122	1212

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

Village Events

NOVEMBER

Saturday 3rd	St Mary's Autumn Fair	11.00am - 2.30pm	Village Hall
Saturday 10th	Whist Drive	7.15pm	Village Hall
Sunday 11th	Remembrance Service	10.45am	Village Hall

DECEMBER

Saturday 8th	Christmas Bazaar	12 noon - 4.00pm	Village Hall
Saturday 8th	Whist Drive	7.15pm	Village Hall
Saturday 15th	Crunch	9.00am - Midday	Village Hall
Sunday 16th	Carols by Candlelight	4.00pm	Baptist Church
Thursday 20th	St Mary's Carol Service	7.30 pm	St Mary's Church
Monday 24th	Midnight Communion	11.30pm	St. Mary's Church

JANUARY 2013

Saturday 12th	Whist Drive	7.15pm	Village Hall
Sunday 27th	Village Hall AGM	3.00pm	Village hall

FEBRUARY

Saturday 2nd	Crunch	9.00am - Midday	Village Hall
Saturday 2nd	Quiz	7.30pm (710757)	Village Hall
Saturday 9th	Whist Drive	7.15pm	Village Hall
Saturday 23rd	History of Ramsden	2.00pm - 5.00pm	Village Hall
Sunday 24th	History of Ramsden	11.00am - 5.00pm	Village Hall

MARCH

Friday 1st	Women's World Day of Prayer	10.30am	Baptist Church
Saturday 9th	Whist Drive	7.15pm	Village Hall
Saturday 16th	Crunch	9.00am - Midday	Village Hall
Tuesday 19th	Daffodil Drop in (710428)	10.30am - 5.00pm	Bramhill Orchard Avenue

APRIL

Saturday 13th	Whist Drive	7.15pm	Village Hall
Sunday 21st	St George's Breakfast	9.00am - Midday	Village Hall

Village Directory

Police	Wickford Police Station	561312
	Basildon Police Station	532212
Village Hall	Chairman - Clive Jeffree	710559
	Booking Secretary - Vivienne Fisher	07772 630513 01268 531441
	Secretary - Abby Short	01268 711675
	Treasurer - Derek Swan	710478
Magazine	Editor - Isabel Johnson	710428
	Advertising - Isabel Johnson	710428
Badminton	Fridays 8pm - 11pm - Karen Pearce	01268 711227
Dog Training	Monday (except 3rd in month) 7.15pm - 10pm - Rita Barber	01702 231189
St Mary's Church	Church Wardens - Beryl Clements - Len Ferris	01245 601298 710165
Horticultural	3rd Monday in the month except July, August and December - Joan Lewis	710893
Ladies Medau	Thursday 8pm - Veronica Greenwood	01702 559914
Cubs	Wed 5.45pm - 7.15pm - Patrick Smith	07838 252963
Scouts	Wed 7.30pm - 9.30pm except 2nd Wed in month - Patrick Smith	07838 252963
Baptist Church	Roger Newton	01268 710259
Bowls	Mon 7.30pm Wed 10am Fri 1.30pm - Kay Debenham	710765
Dancing Club	Every Sunday 7.30pm - 10.30pm General Dancing - Joan Telkman	710260
Whist Drive	Roy Richards (see Village Events)	710669
Line Dancing	Every Monday 2.00pm - 3.00pm Ken Dobson	710771
Essex County Library Mobile Van	Fortnightly Tuesday 3.30pm - 4.00pm	
Bellhouse Preschool Website	Mon to Fri 9.30am - www.ramsdenbellhouse.info	07881 448686

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