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**Village Magazine
Winter 2013**



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A Word from the Editor

Summer gone, and our gardens are beginning to look tired, so now we must look forward to Winter events and yes - even Christmas! Do look at the "Village Events section" on the inside back cover of the magazine, and hopefully you will enjoy participating in some of them. If there is nothing to your taste, why not organise an event yourself.

As I take my walk most days through the Village (yes I am that old lady that strides along one way, but shambles back less enthusiastically), I am somewhat dismayed at the ever increasing number of "concrete" front gardens, some without even a blade of grass. I can only hope that behind the house there is a more natural environment to keep alive the wildlife we need for our own survival.

Talking of wildlife, what a great picture we have on the front cover, thanks to Wendy Swift. Also her interesting article - thank you Wendy. More please original articles for this adds interest to our magazine.

Two requests regarding the Village environment, please, especially in Church Road, see that your hedges etc, are not encroaching on the footpath, and that on Monday mornings some creature has not distributed your rubbish all over the verge and the footpath. It is difficult to prevent this however it is very unsightly, so a quick check will prevent it spreading.

In August I held my Charity Garden Party for the "Helen Rollason Cancer Charity" it was very well attended and I think enjoyed by all. Rain obligingly stopped for 2pm, but not before causing minor panics to arriving guests and wetting all the chairs and tables - it then remained dry until just after we finished, when it fell down in torrents, and umbrellas were much in demand! Thanks to all who helped and supported me, together, and I emphasize "together" we raised £718 for a worthy charity.

One further point, in the last magazine, I explained how the Village Hall worked. I would like to repeat the part about obligations of the Sections. To get their rent considerably reduced they have to raise money at the Fete and Christmas Bazaar and at any event for the chosen Charity. This does mean everyone in that section is expected to give some help towards these events. Failure to give this help puts an undue burden on a very few people. Enjoy section activities (and reduced subscriptions), but please remember its obligations.

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

Isabel Johnson

Chairmans Report

Summer appears to be over and we are heading into the Autumn, it will soon be Christmas again and another year will be upon us. We are being told that this coming year should be better than the last, lets hope that this turns out to be correct and not like the usual forecasts.

At the village hall we are now starting to plan the next few events, which we hope will be successful both financially and socially, both of which are equally important. If you have any ambition or ideas about future events, please come along to our A.G.M. at the beginning of next year get on our committee and get those ideas put into effect. We do need fresh people and fresh ideas, so come along to our events, join in our clubs and meet the local people. If you have ideas about starting a new club or event have a word with our Booking Secretary Mrs Vivienne Fisher on 07772 530513 or 01268 531441, she will have all the information about available booking places, costing and conditions of hire. If you want further information on what goes on at the Hall look up our web-site on (ramsdenbellhouse.info) or get hold of one of our village magazines

C. Jeffree Ramsden Bellhouse Village Hall Chairman
ramsdenbellhouse.info



*Village
Fete*

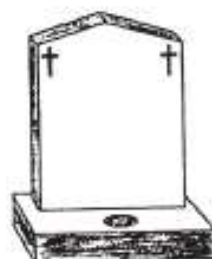
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Table Tennis

Table tennis is going well and we've been open nearly a year, where does the time go? We now have nearly 40 members, and through the summer have had an average of 11 members attending most weeks, which is to be expected during the summer months.

Fred Lockwood our local 'celebrity' has done it again at the VETTS 10th European Table Tennis Championships at Bremen Germany. There were almost 3000 entrants from throughout Europe and Fred managed to win a silver medal in the singles and gold with his partner in the doubles. Not bad after having 2 hip replacements in the last 18 months. Well done Fred.

We have now been able to reduce the cost to £2 per session (this includes a cup of tea or coffee and biscuits – so not bad value for a couple of hours exercise!!!) and there is no membership fee and you can just come when you want – Sunday 10 – 12.

Jan & Brian Smith 01268 763713

A Year of Local Wildlife

Imagine walking through some fields, just a couple of miles from this village, and coming across a herd of Red Deer - two stags, with their magnificent antlers, and several hinds. This happened to me, earlier this year, and, I've decided to take this special moment as the beginning of my year of encounters with local wildlife. And it's been wonderful to see so many creatures do well this year in our local fields, woods and gardens after the set-backs of the last year's wet summer.

The Red Deer were occasionally seen around Hanningfield Reservoir over the winter, until they moved on. The Reservoir itself is a terrific place to watch wildlife, of course, and this year a pair of Marsh Harriers have been hunting there. These add to the other birds of prey I've seen locally, including Buzzards, a common sight now, but rare here just a five or six years ago.

After the long, cold spring many of the migratory birds, such as Swallows, returned to the village late. I didn't hear the first Cuckoo until early May - almost a month later than usual. And as a beekeeper I became anxious about my Honeybee colonies as the cold weather dragged on. It's been widely publicised that bees are already facing various threats, including pesticides - and a cold spring was a final blow; especially coming after last year's bad summer. The bees were unable to build up and gather food, and as a result many local beekeepers lost their weaker colonies. Fortunately, a hot summer has helped the colonies grow stronger and now, in autumn, the bees are preparing for winter once again. The size of each colony is becoming smaller as the queen lays fewer eggs and the female workers drag the males from the hives (since they've now outlived their usefulness). Soon, only a few bees will remain, clustered around the queen.

As well as bees and other pollinators, it has been a good year to see butterflies. There seemed to be an explosion of Orange Tips in the spring and Ringlets, Peacocks and Meadow Browns in mid-summer. It's also been a year to see Painted Lady and Clouded Yellow butterflies; fragile creatures that migrate to the UK.

In a year of local wildlife, I have to include this year's Bluebells, because they were stunning. Perhaps due to the cold spring, the Bluebells came out late - and then all at once - so that our woods became a blue haze with a beautiful scent. Apparently Britain has around half of the world's Bluebells - and Essex has some of the best Bluebell woods in Britain. They are truly a natural wonder - and in our local patch, too.

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The Friends of St Mary's

The efforts of the Friends in raising funds for the maintenance of our historic church building have once again helped us to look forward to carrying out some essential repairs, this time to the church porch. Like many old buildings their condition is sometimes made worse by efforts to correct an apparent minor defect. This it seems is what has happened to the porch at St Marys.

When first built in the 15th century the church porch had weather boarding to its sides similar to that used on the tower. Sometime in the 1930's this horizontal weather boarding was replaced by vertical planks, presumably to improve its appearance. Unfortunately no provision was made to drain away any rain water on the western face of the porch which is exposed to the westerly prevailing weather. This rain water then ran down the planks and accumulated at their base and being unable to drain away caused the oak base plate to gradually rot away. If not corrected in time the western side of the porch would have become dangerous.

The Friends of St Marys Committee agreed that this would be a suitable job for their fund raising to be devoted to. We would like to thank those members of the Friends who have supported us to this end especially the Carpenter family and their friends in putting on a evening concert in the church to this end.

The point has now been reached where the Friends have raised about £1,200 which together with money in the church Fabric Fund should enable us to appoint a contractor to carry out the necessary work.

Most of the legal formalities have now been dealt with including the posting public notices of our intentions both inside and outside the church. Our current target is to have placed instructions for the work to be completed by the end of the year.

Len Ferris



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1 onion finely chopped

1 red pepper deseeded and sliced

250g/9oz Puy lentils

150ml/1/4 pint vegetable stock

125ml/4fl oz red wine or extra stock.

Heat oil in a pan. Cook sausages until browned then remove. Add onion and pepper and cook for about 5 mins until softened. Add lentils and sausages to the pan with the stock and wine if using.

Bring to the boil then simmer for 20 minutes until lentils have softened and sausages are cooked through.

Serve with extra vegetables or with crusty bread.

Per serving 556 cals. Saturated fat 9g.

Joan Wright

Dog Training Club

I am having to write this in a bit of a rush as I have been doing paperwork for our annual show for the last few weeks, it is on Saturday 28th September and this is Monday 23rd so as you can see I am rather late in sending our piece in to the printers. Here's hoping the show goes as well as last year and you all pull together again, entries are up so people have obviously been enjoying our show. With the retirement of Pat Keeble from the committee we have managed to talk Fiona Mears into joining us, welcome Fiona! Jill Head has also decided to resign from training the puppy class and also from the committee, with Derek being unfit at the moment with health issues, Kim Rogers has kindly agreed to take over the puppy class. I am hoping she is getting on alright and that she gets some support when needed from other trainers, as she has only just started back since her own health issues. Gill Winyard has agreed to run a training ring at the show with proceeds going to the hall charity for Parkinsons Disease. Pat Cooper will, weather permitting, be running a tombola stall also for the charity and Anne and Ray Godsiff are going to run a plant stall for the charity. Hopefully all our members will enjoy the



show and have some success for those that have entered. Many of our members have had successes at various shows and moved up the classes - keep it up everyone but remember to enjoy your dogs and you have the best one anyway! The older members will remember my 'Buzz' who I turned to flyball with, due to the difficulties he had in obedience controlling his enthusiasm, we did a demo with the flyball group for the summer fete and Buzz decided he wanted someones sandwich and before going down the flyball lane he whipped across and stole a lady's sandwich, luckily she laughed.

Unfortunately since then in the last week or so he has become wobbly on his legs, a condition caused by old age, called geriatric vestibular, but the drugs are making him better and keeping his balance more stable. Anyway good luck to all for the rest of the season.

Rita Barber

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St Mary's Church

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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 annual friends of St Mary's Ramble, took place on 11 May, when Kay and Peter Debenham lead a walk through local footpaths, ending at the Baptist Church for soup and rolls.

St Mary's Spring Fair took place on 8th June and raised £467 for Church Funds. The Autumn Fair will take place at the Village Hall on 16 November from 11am to 2 pm, with various stalls and refreshments including Ploughman's lunches on sale.

Our annual Garden Party, held at Isabel's home in Orchard Avenue was blessed with reasonably good weather, and raised £347 towards the cost of staging the Flower Festival at the August Bank Holiday. The Festival itself started on the Saturday afternoon with torrential rain, but luckily there were no outside events on that day. A few hardy souls braved the weather to come and admire the floral displays in the Church, each of which depicted events, both in the Church calendar, and in the wider world, for each month of the year. Good weather on Sunday and Monday meant that there was a steady flow of visitors to the Church and to patronise the outside stalls and partake of the usual refreshments including Ploughman's lunches. The open air Songs of Praise Service on Sunday afternoon was well attended. Many thanks to the flower arrangers, stallholders, visitors and all who supported the event in anyway. £2015 was raised for Church repairs.

We continue to meet up with our friends from the Baptist Church for joint activities. On Palm Sunday the two congregations, together with members of St Margaret's, Downham and St Peter's, South Hanningfield, met at the Baptist Church and processed to St Mary's for a joint Holy Communion Service. Joint services were held at the Baptist Church on 14th July and St Mary's on 13th October, and members of both Churches, the Cubs and Scouts and many villagers will meet at the village Hall at 10:45 am on 11th November for the Remembrance Day Service and laying of the wreath. Both Churches are involved in the Monday morning meetings at the Emmanuel Hall at the Baptist Church. Anybody is invited to drop in for coffee and a chat between 10:30 am and noon.

An outstanding event was the summer concert "Tunes in June" - when the Carpenter family from the village and a few friends sang songs from the shows. A capacity audience - 83 tickets were sold, and the church pews seat 80 - enjoyed the concert and cheese and wine in the marquee outside in the interval. Many thanks to the performers for giving their time and talents. A further concert of sacred music sung by the choir of the Church of the Holy Redeemer, Billericay on 5th October will be over by the time you read this, but one or two concerts are being explored for next year.

Our Quiz Nights have been disrupted by the Quiz Master's heart problems, last year's Charity Quiz, and that in June had to be cancelled, but the February Quiz went ahead raising £408 for Church funds. This year's Charity Quiz on 26th October is all set to go ahead. Hopefully all three Quizzes will be held in 2014.

With Christmas coming, our Carol Service will take place on Thursday, 19th December at 7:30 pm, and the Midnight Holy Communion at 11:30 pm on Christmas Eve. We would be pleased to

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welcome everyone to these or to any of our regular Sunday services. A good starting point would be the Monthly Family Service for people of all ages, normally held on the fourth Sunday of each month. This is a simple 45 minute service, followed by tea/coffee and biscuits. Look for the board outside the church.

Alan Pegrum.



Pause for Thought from St Mary's

I'm sitting here writing this in mid September wearing a jumper and feeling quite chilly - only a week ago it was 30degrees believe it or not!! Definitely unpredictable, just as the last few months have been in my life. I've become a granny, a widow and a mother of the bride to be!! So it's been a time surrounded by 'birth, marriage and death' - not quite in that order!!

It reminded me that very often at least one of these occasions is the reason why people may venture forth to church maybe for the first time.

All of these occasions are important because they represent what are known as 'rites of passage' and whether Christianity is significant in your life or not - these occasions are highly significant on all levels, and represent big changes in people's livesthe passage from womb into the world from being single to being a couple, and making the final journey from this world into the next.

By the time you read this, some people in our Benefice who started coming to church because of one of these occasions will have been confirmed having come to faith in Jesus Christ, God the Father and the Holy Spirit - the Trinitarian God we believe in.

Why wait for that 'rite of passage' occasion before coming to church - life is too short, and as I've discovered these last 4 months, you never quite know what's round the corner and whether you believe in God or not - He is with us through times of sorrow and joy.

If you don't know anything about Christianity, why not come along and find out. The family service (4th Sunday of the month at 10:30) welcomes people of all ages and is well recommended for those dipping their toes in for the first time.

Suzy Edmundson

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Bowls Club

What a glorious summer! Much appreciated by our club members. What a pleasure it was to open the hall doors and windows during our bowling sessions for a change. We have been bowling along nicely over the past months competing in league matches and playing friendlies. League matches for the next season begin again on October 13th with our three teams Rooks, Ravens & Robins competing.

Congratulations to the winners of our Club Competitions.

Singles - Peter Debenham

Doubles - Carol and Tom Dines

During July, interested members met for a Club Lunch at a local restaurant. The overall opinion of our diners was very favourable. Good food, good service and pleasant company in comfortable surroundings. Couldnt wish for better. Looking forward to future lunches.

Summer Fete - The Club offered a basket of fruit as a raffle.

A Marble Game; a steady hand required to feed marbles into an upturn flower pot.



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Bottle Stall Tombola, fizzy drinks, water etc. As the afternoon sun warmed visitors so the stall proved to be quite popular. Maybe the fizzy drinks looked enticing enough because ticket sales were brisk. Thanks to members who manned the stalls for the event, much appreciated.

Charity Day Event was an entertaining Bowls-Fun-Day, Short Mat Bowls with a difference. The mats became obstacle courses with humps, slopes and targets to be considered when teams were playing. This resulted in a few woods going astray when bowled. Quite amusing really. Tea was provided by members, a variety of tasty sandwiches, cakes and biscuits, at the end of the afternoon.

Should you be interested in joining our bowls club please contact. Angela Hodivala 01268 710619. for times see Village Directory

Bye for now Eileen Smith



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*Tom & Carol Dines
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WEDDING FLOWERS

Bygone Years



Where is it?

Two houses are still there - but altered.
(Answer on page 36)



Dancing

The Dance Club has enjoyed another good period. The members and friends had a wonderful evening at our Charity Square Dance with people from other villages attending. We raised £360 for the Parkinson's Charity, and look forward to organising another event next year. Our Summer Ball was held in memory of Joan Telkman and her daughters and past members were our guests for the evening. We now look forward to our Winter Programme with halloween and, dare we say it our Christmas Ball.

Barry Gardiner

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Horticultural Summer show



Isabel's Garden Party - Geof & Greta



Helen Rollason Team play
Bumpety Bump



Dancers at Village Fete



Parkinson's Choir at Village Fete



Tony & Clive win Bumpety Bump



St Mary's Flower Festival



Village Fete Dog Display



Village Fete Barbeque



Village Fete Line Dancing

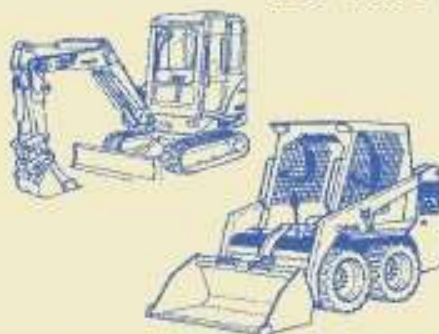


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References Available

Horticultural

Thank-you to all of you who used the trading hut this year, it is well stocked and a good place to visit for that Sunday morning chat, the only way we can keep it running is if it is used.

The same applies to our meetings and shows, and with shows in mind the Summer one provided us with a good display of entries of which a number of new members entered and were rewarded with prizes. The profit made was our contribution towards the hall funds.

The Autumn show was unfortunately not so well supported this year, as it has been a bad year for fruit and vegetables, and there were less entries from our own members but we were pleased to have members from Rayleigh and Laindon enter which was much appreciated.

As for the past meetings, we had a full house in June for the very informative talk by Harry Brickwood, a wonderful visit to Valerie Jones amazing garden on a lovely warm evening in July and no meeting in August. September started with the first of several new speakers booked for the forthcoming months.

We are holding a Beetle Drive as our Charity Event, see page 39, in November we hope as many residents from the village (and their friends!) will support it.

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

Marion Shillum



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Baptist Church

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

Since my last article for the March magazine a major change has taken place at the Baptist Church. As I mentioned in the last issue, in November last year the Rev Jim Hamilton became a moderator. From that time he greatly supported, encouraged and challenged us as we moved forward in 2013.

At a Deacon's meeting held in January, Jim proposed that we should have a meeting with the Rev Sheila Martin, our Regional Minister, to discuss the way forward in our search for a new Pastor.

Following the very helpful meeting with Sheila, a further Deacon's meeting was held during March. At the meeting we discussed a further profile for a new minister that we had recently received. It was decided

that it was not viable due to the travel involved. After discussion it was agreed that the church was continuing well and that we should not make any decisions in a rush.

Then came April in that month, out of the blue, the deacons received an email from Sheila Martin which included the following:

"Jim and Pauline Hamilton have been to see me for one of our regular chats. They have been thinking and praying about the future of Ramsden Bellhouse Baptist Church. They expressed a deep love for the church. They were wondering how you would feel about having a conversation about the possibility of Jim being your part time minister for a set period of time."

The Diaconate were resoundly in favour of this possibility! The possibility was announced to the church who were also enthusiastic. After various meetings with Sheila, Jim and Pauline it was agreed to call an Extraordinary Church Meeting for the 6th June at which a resolution would be put to church members asking them to vote for the acceptance of the Rev Jim Hamilton as part time Pastor/Minister of the church. The meeting was held and the resolution was passed unanimously by all the members.

The Induction service for our new Pastor was held on Saturday 20th July and was well attended and was a great success. It was a service full of praise and thanksgiving to the Lord for the way He had led us to this outcome in our search for a minister during the two years of interregnum.

So we move forward now with the challenge of changes and expectations of new opportunities in the village to proclaim the Christian Gospel.

One of the songs we had at the induction had the chorus *"What a faithful God have I, what a faithful God, Faithful in every way"* - How true that is!

Roger Newton - Church Secretary

Carols by Candlelight

4.00 pm December 22nd

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Happy Birthday Isabel!

It was my 87th birthday, and I was on the cruise ship "Quest for Adventure" (very prophetic). Today it was a visit to the Giants Causeway in Ireland, before setting off for the Outer Hebrides. I had always wanted to go there so I was quite excited. My daughter Chris and I had opted for the cheapest cabin, so we had no portholes. We nicknamed it the "Dungeon" but really it was very nice. I quickly learned how to put the plug in the wash basin, and to understand the shower!

However I digress. Emerging into daylight from the dungeon, I was a little dismayed that yesterday's sunshine had been replaced by heavy rain – but I am not a sissy, and if I do look ridiculous with my raincoat hood up – well no-one knows me here. My dismay increased when I realised that the ship was anchored well out to sea, and in order to reach the shore, it was not a nice sturdy gang plank, but a small boat bobbing about, with access by an almost vertical ladder. I began to realise that I was a sissy really! But there was no going back. Eager hand pulled me on and shoved me off, but should I be doing this at my age! Like drowned rats we boarded the coach and we were off to the Promised Land. We were behind schedule – so "comfort stops" were out. My interest in the Giants Causeway seemed to be waning in favour of a little room marked "Toilet" and on arrival this was my first objective. Nature satisfied we faced a mile walk, of course we could take the bus, but that was for sissies. We became sissies! My wet hood kept falling over my eyes, and I began to think of a cosy bungalow in Ramsden Bellhouse, much more suitable for an old lady than this wild inhospitable landscape.

OK, I've seen it, let's get back on the bus and get a warm drink – bit of a wash out this birthday treat. But worse was to come. It was now blowing a full gale. We had to wait ages for the tender to take us back, some problem with "connecting" with the ship. A little alarm bell rang in my head, but I had ceased to be a sissy, and was looking forward to a little birthday celebration at the evening meal.

It was quite difficult getting on the tender, as it rocked from side to side. I realised I was not only a sissy, but a frightened sissy. Then I understood about being able to connect to the ship. Our little tender was hitting the side of the ship with sickening thumps. I began to feel sick, but others were already throwing up. Half an hour later we were still hitting the ship at the whim of the gale. The horror of how we would ever get back on the ship came over me. We were still going up and down, and everyone's stomach with it. I wondered if I was going to die, and I saw

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my gravestone "Isabel Johnson drowned at sea on her 87th Birthday."

At last we tied up, and we were told we must wait on the top step and leap into the ship the moment we were given the command. Go! Well my leaping days have long gone!

The tender exit and the ship entrance must line up in order to do this "leap." But most of the time they didn't. The Tender went up, down and sideways, and the ship entrance went elsewhere. I was very frightened. Two crew members took my arms and it was GO, but horror of horrors, the tender lurched and they yelled "NO" and dragged me back. My tombstone was beckoning me, and I wanted to have hysterics. But then it was "GO" again and I was catapulted into the ship to be caught by two other crew members. I could not stand for shaking and was shoved unceremoniously on a chair.

Inside I was crying "Thank you God" as relief came over me. But where was Chris? She'd been behind me. Terror returned – and then she came flying in, and we cried together with relief. She was shaking all over, and needed First Aid to calm a panic attack. Any idea of a birthday meal was totally nauseating – we both felt sick. It took me an hour and a half laying on the bed in the Dungeon to feel even vaguely normal. Happy Birthday Isabel – I hope I never have another like it!

Isabel Johnson



Giants Causeway, Ireland

Cubs and Scouts



Scouts and Cubs help at the Village Fete



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Remember the War

As the centenary of the Great War approaches, there are none left in the village who recall the events of 1914-18. The few left who can remember those of 1939 - 1945 pass on their experiences through articles in this magazine and displays at village events. We are grateful for their efforts. The greater gratitude is to those who served and sacrificed in two world wars and those who continue to serve. We remind ourselves of this during the village's memorial service which is run in cooperation between St Mary the Virgin and Ramsden Bellhouse Baptist churches.

Those who attend this event will no doubt have noticed that the village war memorial barely passes as a fitting expression of our gratitude. Those who do not attend the memorial service are often not even aware that a monument exists. The Parish Council and Village Hall Committee have undertaken to rectify this and to install a new memorial in the location of the current one. The intention is that the new structure will be more fitting expression of remembrance and a visible focal point for the village.

We would welcome the opinions of residents as to form this new memorial will take. Do you prefer an obelisk or a wall, a lawn or paving or perhaps a park bench? Please pass on your suggestions by email to ramsdenbellhouse@btinternet.com.

Ramsden Bellhouse Memorial Committee



*Memorial in St Mary's Church
to those who lost their lives
in two World Wars*

Personal Page

Sincere and heartfelt congratulations to **Katy Hodivala** (formerly of Ramsden Park Road) for her truly amazing completion of an Ironman Triathlon and raising almost £2500 for Farleigh and The Js Hospices.

We are so proud of you. **Rusi & Angela**



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Teddies for Tragedies Essex Branch

Having gone into semi-retirement due to Alan's heart attacks, things have slowed down a bit. During the summer 1980 teddies have been distributed in Romania, Zambia and Kosovo. The grand total now stands at 284,607. Many blankets went to Zambia, together with jumpers and hats and stationery, Bibles and Bible notes. We were also able to send many margarine boxes filled with toiletries for boys and girls. The boys' boxes included a small car, and the girls', hair accessories. Brother Titus gives these out as Sunday School prizes! In June, clowns, hats, jumpers and blankets went to Sierra Leone, and in September, a large consignment of teddies, clowns, jumpers, cardigans, hats, scarves and gloves went to Kosovo with many toiletry boxes. The convoy that goes to Kosovo takes teddies, stationery and warm clothes into some 12 schools, and I received a letter from one of them. I quote from the letter "It is my pleasure to say one big thank you for your presents. They have brought a smile on the faces of our children. These parcels are a very big moral and material satisfaction for all of us because they are coming from friendly country like England. We remember and we can't forget your activities for peace and freedom at wartime, because you helped us to stay free in our grandfathers' land. With the best wishes and love from the children of our school"



Many thanks to all who have left in my porch toiletries received from their hotels while on holiday, and of course, to all the knitters and teddy baggers who meet regularly at Isabel's home to put the teddies into their individual bags and sew together knitted squares and the strange pieces of knitting that come in, and together they make them into lovely warm blankets.

Wishing you all every happiness this Christmas. God Bless.

Audrey Pegrum MBE, Essex Branch Organiser



**Christmas Bazaar
November 30th**





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Badminton Club

The Badminton Club meets Friday between 8.00pm and 10.00pm and we are always happy to welcome new players. The first couple of weeks are free for anyone who wishes to try us out, our annual membership fee is very reasonable and we are especially interested in any players with some previous experience who are able to attend on a regular basis. Whilst our doubles games are competitive the main emphasis is on having an enjoyable social evening with the added bonus of keeping fit at the same time.

If you think this might be of interest to you please come along one Friday between 8.00pm and 10.00pm and have a go.

Karen Pearce



Answer to Guess Where?

*The picture was taken outside St Mary's Church
looking towards the shop.*



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
March 20th 2014.

If you have the facilities please send it as a **WORD** file
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Fun Whist

It has been a quiet summer at Whist. With holidays, gardening and entertaining this is not unusual for the summer months. Now September has come in with a sudden chill, reminding us all that winter is on the way and we have to turn our minds to more indoor, rather than outdoor inclined activities. Maybe the two types of activity can be combined with a brisk walk through the Village to the Village Hall for a pleasant social evening of whist with friends and neighbours. For those who haven't given it a try, the second Saturday of every month, 7.15pm and for the princely sum of £3.00 you have an evening of Fun Whist with tea and biscuits in the interval and a raffle thrown in for good measure!

Looking forward to seeing you.

Angela Hodivala

Happy Christmas to all our readers

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Noak Bridge - Basildon - Basildon Hospital

	NS				
South Woodham, Asda	08.00	09.00	11.00	13.00	16.20
South Woodham, Rail Station	08.04	09.04	11.04	13.04	16.24
Woodham Rd, Opposite Butterfly Farm	08.07	09.08	11.08	13.08	16.28
Rettendon, TurnPike Comer	08.11	09.13	11.13	13.13	16.33
Runwell, Church	08.14	09.16	11.16	13.16	16.36
Wickford, Rail Station	08.17	09.19	11.19	13.19	16.39
Brock Hill, Downham Road	08.21	09.23	11.23	13.23	16.43
Ramsden Heath, White Horse	08.27	09.29	11.29	13.29	16.49
Ramsden Bellhouse, Glebe Rd	08.30	09.32	11.32	13.32	16.52
Crays Hill, Shepherd & Dog	08.34	09.36	11.36	13.36	16.56
Noak Bridge, South Wash Road	08.38	09.41	11.41	13.41	17.01
Miles Gray Road, Opposite B&Q	08.40	09.43	11.43	13.43	17.03
Festival Leisure Park	---	09.47	11.47	13.47	17.07
Ghyllgrove, Opposite Audley Way	---	09.51	11.51	13.51	17.11
Basildon, Bus Station Stand R	08.48	09.55	11.55	13.55	17.15
Basildon Hospital	08.55	---	---	---	17.20
	NS				
Basildon Hospital	---	---	---	17.25	18.25
Basildon, Bus Station Stand R	10.00	12.00	14.00	17.30	18.30
Ghyllgrove, Audley Way	10.04	12.04	14.04	17.34	18.34
Festival Leisure Park	10.08	12.08	14.08	17.38	18.38
Miles Gray Road, B&Q	10.12	12.12	14.12	17.42	18.42
Noak Bridge, South Wash Road	10.14	12.14	14.14	17.46	18.46
Crays Hill, Opposite ShePherd & Dog	10.19	12.19	14.19	17.49	18.49
Ramsden Bellhouse, Glebe Rd	10.23	12.23	14.23	17.53	18.53
Ramsden Heath, White Horse	10.26	12.26	14.26	17.56	18.56
Brock Hill, Downham Road	10.32	12.32	14.32	18.02	19.02
Wickford, Rail Station	10.36	12.36	14.36	18.06	19.06
Runwell, Quart Pot	10.39	12.39	14.39	18.09	19.08
Rettendon, TurnPike Comer	10.42	12.42	14.42	18.12	19.12
Woodham Rd, Butterfly Farm	10.47	12.47	14.47	18.17	19.17
South Woodham, Opposite Rail Station	10.51	12.51	14.51	18.21	19.21
South Woodham, Asda	10.55	12.55	14.55	18.25	19.25

Key: NS Not Saturdays

Village Events

NOVEMBER

Saturday 2nd	Beetle Drive <small>details: 01268 710428</small>	7.00pm	Village Hall
Saturday 9th	Fun Whist	7.15pm	Village Hall
Sunday 10th	Remembrance Service	10.45am	Village Hall
Saturday 16th	Autumn Fair	11.00am - 2.30pm	Village Hall
Saturday 30th	Christmas Bazaar	12 noon - 4.00pm	Village Hall

DECEMBER

Saturday 1st	Bowls Open Day	2.30pm	Village Hall
Saturday 7th	Crunch	9.00am - Midday	Village Hall
Saturday 14th	Fun Whist	7.15pm	Village Hall
Thursday 19th	St Mary's Carol Service	7.30pm	St Mary's Church
Sunday 22nd	Christingle Service	10.30am	St Mary's Church
Sunday 22nd	Carols by Candlelight	4.00pm	Baptist Church
Tuesday 24th	Midnight Mass	11.30pm	St. Mary's Church

JANUARY 2014

Saturday 11th	Fun Whist	7.15pm	Village Hall
Sunday 19th	Village Hall AGM	3.00pm	Village Hall
Saturday 25th	Crunch	9.00am - Midday	Village Hall

FEBRUARY

Saturday 8th	Fun Whist	7.15pm	Village Hall
Saturday 22nd	History of Ramsden	2.00pm - 5.00pm	Village Hall
Sunday 23rd	History of Ramsden	11.00am - 5.00pm	Village Hall

MARCH

Friday 7th	Women's World Day of Prayer	10.30am	Baptist Church
Saturday 8th	Crunch	9.00am - Midday	Village Hall
Saturday 8th	Fun Whist	7.15pm	Village Hall
Tuesday 18th	Isabel's Daffodil Day	10.30am - 5.00pm	Bramhill Orchard Avenue

APRIL

Saturday 12th	Fun Whist	7.15pm	Village Hall
Sunday 24th	St George's Breakfast	9.00am - Midday	Village Hall

Village Directory

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	- Karen Pearce	01268 711227
Dog Training	Monday (except 3rd in month)		
	7.15pm - 10pm	- Rita Barber	01702 231189
St Mary's Church	Church Wardens	- Beryl Clements	01245 601298
		- Len Ferns	710165
Horticultural	3rd Monday in the month except July, August and December	- Joan Lewis	710893
Ladies Medau	Thursday 8pm	- Veronica Greenwood	01702 559914
Cubs	Wed 5.45pm - 7.15pm	- Patrick Smith	07838 252963
Scouts	Wed 7.30pm - 9.30pm except 2nd Wed in month		
		- Patrick Smith	07838 252963
Baptist Church	Roger Newton		01268 710259
Bowls	Mon 7.30pm		
	Wed 10am		
	Fri 1.30pm	- Angela Hodivala	01268 710619
Dancing Club	Every Sunday 7.30pm - 10.30pm		
	General Dancing	- Barry Gardiner	01268 711336
Whist Drive	Roy Richards (see Village Events)		710669
Line Dancing	Every Monday 2.00pm - 3.00pm	Ken Dobson	710771
Essex County Library Mobile Van	Fortnightly Tuesday 3.30pm - 4.00pm		
Bellhouse Preschool	Mon to Fri 9.30am		07881 448686
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