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RAMSDEN BELLHOUSE

Village Magazine
Winter 2015



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A Word from the Editor

One minute it's the hottest day of the summer and then suddenly you notice that the garden is beginning to look decidedly tatty, the leaves are floating by the windows, and the central heating comes on. Now, by the time you read this it will be winter, probably no leaves and shops full of Christmas fayre.

Is it time to look back to the good times of summer or to look forward to the pleasures of winter? Take the summer for instance, apart from exotic holidays, simple holidays and happy family occasions, there were some really great Village Events. Did you enjoy the Music Festival, sometimes called "Party in the Park"? Lots of people did. It was very popular, helped by good weather, and very hard work by a dedicated organising team. Well done!

Then how about St Mary's Flower Festival, on the Bank Holiday. Many people said it was the best ever, in spite of cold wind and rain all day Monday. I personally was frozen helping with refreshments, but the "Songs of Praise" Service in the open air was very uplifting.

So to move forward on a more sombre note. In November on Remembrance Sunday (see Village Events), there is a combined churches service in the Village Hall. This is time for us to pause and reflect. Our New War Memorial is now a year old, and should remind us of the futility of wars and the terrible waste of young men's lives in "wars to end all wars" until of course the next one.

On a lighter note at the end of November there is the Christmas Bazaar with lots of things (which you cannot possibly do without) for Christmas. If you're lucky you get to sit on Father Christmas's knee, but you have to believe in him, and on reflection I think "Health and Safety" forbid this now!

Christmas over for those interested in the past, the "History of Ramsden" pops up every year at the end of February. This is not a boring lecture, but an exhibition of photos, maps and documents relating to our Village and surrounding areas. For good measure there is small museum of artifacts from the past, and I'm told the refreshments are good!

Lastly a heart felt plea. Many people tell me they intend to write something for this magazine. They don't. Oh how I wish they would! If the only feed-back I get is spelling and punctuation mistakes - don't bother! Well it is a bit discouraging.

Thanks to all involved in the production and delivery of this magazine, and to the advertisers. Copy for the next issue by March 20th either to me or preferably to bryan.diggory@sky.com.

Chairmans Report

Thankfully I can now report that the kitchen refurbishment is now complete, I must thank all the sections and bookings for their patience during the summer months, and for their tolerance of the disruption and of the dust levels. At one time I had my doubts that it would ever return to normal but thankfully we are now there. The layout has been altered to allow,



with a little tolerance, two groups to use the kitchen facilities simultaneously. The roller shutters allow access to each hall with each side having its own washing and hot water facilities. Centrally there is an induction cooker hob together with a double oven, one word of warning, as it is an induction hob it must only be used with the special pans provided, normal pans do not work. Also there is an industrial washing machine, please follow the instructions for its use. There has been an access door cut through to the committee room. This will allow access to the kitchen without interference to the main halls. This layout allowed a lot more cupboards to be fitted so every group can now have its own cupboard. Although the kitchen is the same size it appears much bigger so it will not feel as crowded as before. Lastly I must thank the Basildon Community Investment Fund for their grant of £14,500 towards the cost of this refurbishment which I feel is well worth it.

There still remains the storage room to sort out which I hope to start soon.

C. Jeffree, Ramsden Bellhouse Village Hall Chairman
ramsdenbellhouse.info

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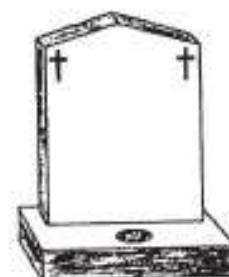


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Assistant Priests: Rev. Jean Andrews, 01268 733817

Rev. Miranda Seaman, 01277 841921

Lay Reader: Mrs. Suzy Edmundson, 01245 224181

Services:

1st Sunday: Evening Prayer, 6.30pm

2nd Sunday: Holy Communion, 9.30am

3rd Sunday: Holy Communion, 6.30pm

4th Sunday: Family Service, 10.30am

5th Sunday: Joint Holy Communion, 10am at St. Mary's, St. Margaret's Downham, or St. Peter's South Hanningfield.

By the time you read this, Evening Services will have changed to be at 3.00pm, the first being on 1st November.

Looking forward to Christmas, the date for our Carol Service has not been finalised, but will probably be on Thursday 17th December at 7.30pm. This will be published in The Herald and on the Downham website. There will be the usual Midnight Holy Communion at 11.30pm on Christmas Eve.

We continue with our close relationship with our friends at the Baptist Church, with joint events being held throughout the year. Every Monday morning there is a Drop-in at the Emmanuel Hall at the Baptist Church. Everybody is welcome to come in any time between 10.30am and noon for coffee and a chat, with interesting speakers on some Mondays. Both Churches will be involved in organising the annual Remembrance Sunday Service at the Village Hall at 10.45am on 8th November, with the Cubs and Scouts on parade. This service is always well supported by the Village as a whole.

Our Fund Raising efforts – very necessary to maintain our ancient Church – have continued with a very enjoyable concert by the Sid Bolan Big Band in April attracting a capacity audience of about 80 and raising £800. They have already been booked for an open air concert on the Saturday of the August Bank Holiday weekend in 2016. You are invited to bring your own picnic to this event. Some 80 people came to the Strawberry Cream Tea at the Village Hall in June, and raised £700. Our big fund-raiser, the Flower Festival over the August Bank Holiday, was a great success financially, in spite of the rather indifferent weather.

Sunday remained dry but chilly and the enjoyable Songs of Praise took place in the open air, but Monday produced perpetual rain. Nevertheless a good number of people came along to view the floral displays, enjoy the Ploughman's Lunches and patronise the stalls. Grateful thanks go to the many people who helped in any way to stage this event, and to all our visitors. The takings were boosted by the profits from three Coffee Mornings which were utilised for the purchase of flowers. The grand total raised was £2937.

In 2014 we had a very enjoyable concert provided by the Southend Vox Choir. When you get your new 2016 diaries, book the date of 21st May for their next concert.

Details of all services and events at St. Mary's, St. Margaret's Downham and St. Peter's South Hanningfield can be found in the monthly publication "The Herald". This is on sale at the Village Shop at 35p. alternatively a discount can be obtained by paying an annual fee of £4 in advance to have a copy delivered to your home. Contact me on 01268 710757.

Alan Pegrum

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Producing Golden Honey and Christmas Candles from a Back Garden Beehive

Imagine harvesting rich, golden honeycomb from your own back garden. Imagine, too, producing brightly burning candles; thick, beeswax polish and beautifully fragrant soap. If you are tempted by any of this, then you might consider becoming a beekeeper, because a back garden beehive is the source of all of these wonderful products.

Honey is the most obvious product for beekeepers from the hive. The bees produce this from foraging throughout the year, and the beekeeper will look to extract this from the comb when the bees have produced a surplus i.e. a beekeeper will take the surplus and leave enough honey for the bees to feed on. Most beekeepers harvest their main crop of honey in August after the bees have been active throughout the spring and summer, and honey is extracted by spinning the frames (holding the comb) in a honey extractor. This is then filtered, allowed to settle and poured into jars. The process really isn't difficult at all for the beekeeper - after all, the bees have done all the hard work by producing the honey in the first place!

The bees also produce plenty of wax in the hive and they work together to do it, as it's estimated that it takes 10,000 bees to produce a 1lb of pure beeswax in 3 days. Beekeepers can melt the wax for furniture and shoe polish and they can also have fun creating their own cottage industry of creams and lotions, as beeswax can be blended with essential oils to make (for example) hand creams, lip balms and soaps.

The cleanest wax can be used for candle making. Beeswax candles have been used for centuries, but initially were only used by the church and the wealthy, because of the high value of beeswax. Poorer folk created light by using sedge or split rush stems (rush lights) dipped in tallow (animal fat). Pure beeswax candles are a delight to make; they burn slowly and steadily (they do not splutter like paraffin candles can) and they have a sweet scent.

In many parts of the world, a beehive is primarily seen as a medicine chest. Honey, wax and propolis (a sticky substance bees collect from tree buds) are used as a foundation for many home-made medicines. This is less true in Britain, where we rely on conventional drugs, although in recent years honey has become increasingly used in hospitals to treat wounds. The natural antibacterial qualities in honey are prized in an age where antibiotic use is becoming less effective.

I'm always amazed by how much bees can give us. All they ask for in return is a natural environment full of bee friendly flowers, hedges and trees. They then reward us with the purist food and the softest wax. And this winter, I'll be using beeswax to make elegant, aromatic candles to give light and atmosphere in my home at this darkest time of year.

Wendy Swift



Personal Page

Congratulations to

Winnie Bell of Orchard Avenue on her 90th birthday last May.

Joan Kelly late of Ramsden Park now Park Lodge Billericay on her 90th birthday last June.

Jacqui and Terry Manning on their Diamond Wedding.

Barry and Jane Walsh on their Golden Wedding.

Ellie and Stuart Bell on their marriage on 14th May.

Sylvia and Tom Ealham on their Diamond Wedding.

Rachel (née Smith) and James Ovel on the birth of Fleur Olivia on 16.8.2015. A sister for Fern, and granddaughter for Rita and Mark Smith of Orchard Avenue.

Jaqui and David Bateup on the birth of Michael David on May 16th. A brother for Keiron and Harry, and grandson for Ken and the late Maggie Dobson of Church Road.

In Memory of

Reg Illes who died 3.9.2015. He was a former member of the Ramsden Bellhouse Bowls Club. Our sympathies go out to his daughter Kay Debenham and family.

Cynthia Mercer who died 30th June. she was a member of the Horticultural Society, and attended St Mary's Church Ramsden Bellhouse. Our sympathies go to her many friends.

Kath Toy of Ramsden Heath who died 10th April aged 94. She was an active member of St Mary's Ramsden Bellhouse all her life and will be remembered for her beautiful flower arrangements at St Mary's Flower Festival. Our sympathies go out to all her family.

Poem

As a Primary School Secretary/Office Manager for 35 years (now retired), I have heard many amusing quips from the children. The short poem below relates to one incident, many years ago, when I was confronted by a small boy aged four and a half years.

A small boy with laces undone
Came into my office one day
I tied the offending laces
And he turned to go away.
When I prompted a "What do you say?"
I was quickly put in my place
When came the cheeky reply from the child
"Thank you Banana Face!"

I met the aforementioned 'small boy' as a young man of 18. He had no recall of the incident, perhaps conveniently so, and was horrified to think he had said such a thing. This little anecdote never fails to make me smile.

Jane Walsh



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Suzy Writes

As I'm writing this in late September on what has been a beautiful sunny day, I'm reminded that yesterday there was intermittent rain and even a brief thunderstorm here in Bicknacre. The weather has been so unpredictable of late - or perhaps I should say very changeable! There have been times when I've been tempted to put the heating on it's been so cold - far more like autumn than late summer. (How terribly British to talk about the weather)!

However as I've thought about this, I'm reminded that in many ways life is a bit like that - not exactly unpredictable, but we never know what is round the corner. Life is a complex mixture of sunshine and showers - of joys and sorrows and the mundane of everyday chores, times when the way forward is easy and those times when the path ahead is difficult or perhaps fearful.

In the ever changing nature of the world we live in, we have a God who is unchanging - a solid foundation to build our lives upon, if only we trust him for our well being and security.

It's strange isn't it how full our church can be at the flower festival, Christmas, for weddings, baptisms and funerals, and how many people left prayers on the prayer tree, and yet it isn't well attended at other times. Perhaps it's worth a thought ... there will always be a welcome if you'd like to come and find out more about Christianity, or what goes on in church. Why not come along to one of our services.

If you want to know more then go to our website www.Downhamchurch.org.uk or contact one of our ministry team - details on the church noticeboard and in the Herald magazine.

Suzy Edmundson.



Bowls Club

The summer months and summer holidays are behind us, so we now move on through the Autumn.

As the league matches for 2014/15 finished so friendly matches were arranged, offering all members the opportunity to play other Bowling Clubs at home or away. 'Friendlies' are open to all members hopefully encouraging 'tasters' for potential league position players.

Now, league games for this season begin again in October, with Peter, our appointed league Captain arranging matches for our club teams,

namely The Rooks, The Ravens and Robins.

Congratulations to the winners of our Annual Bowls Competition:
Well done!

Singles Winner Malcolm Winter

Doubles Winners Kay & Peter Debenham

Our Charity Event supporting St Luke's Hospice was a very successful Garden Party at Rusi & Angelas. As always the garden was beautiful and much appreciated by the guests. Ample quantities of tasty, tempting foods was offered and consumed readily. Many thanks to everyone, and the raised, including the raffle, was £365.22.

Club celebrations.

Congratulations to Winnie Bell on her 90th Birthday!

Tom & Sylvia Ealham on their Diamond Wedding Anniversary

Jane & Barry on their Golden Wedding Anniversary

Stuart & Ellie on their Marriage.

Bye for now Miss A. Bowl (E. Smith)



Horticultural Society

I will start with the talk by Jim Buttress in March, a great success which increased our funds to pay for more good speakers. In April Derek March was our speaker on the "Secrets of a Walled Garden". Then in May we had the Musical Evening another success, this time we shared the profit with the Musical Society. The Summer Show in June went very well, we had several new exhibitors and the judges were impressed with the standard of the entries. Also in June was the garden visit to Sam and Catherine's, thank-you both for your hospitality, I could not attend myself, but was told the garden and cakes were excellent. The meeting was cancelled in July because of hall refurbishments. In August Rusi and Angela opened their garden for our contribution to the village charity, we were delighted to raise £1101. Thank-you to them both and to all who helped to make it such a success and a lovely afternoon for all who attended.

Look forward to seeing you all at our AGM in November.

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

Marion Shillum

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Teddies for Tragedies Essex Branch

During the summer teddies have gone to Zambia, Kosovo, Cambodia, and Burma with more teddies going to Kosovo at the beginning of October together with many knitted blankets, jumpers, cardigans, hats etc. and, of course, the toiletry boxes containing soap, flannel, toothbrush, toothpaste, comb and often the small shampoos you are given in hotels. These are very much welcomed by the people who have so little. Also in October our Broadwood piano is going out to a small school in Dushtri, Kosovo. Alan no longer plays the piano so we are delighted to give it to the school, and hope children will get many happy times from their music.

We are now getting ready to fill shoeboxes with gifts for children and adults at Christmas who, but for the shoeboxes would not have anything. I have just received from Blythwood Care news about last year's boxes and I share some of this with you.

1 'Homeless former nurse surprised someone cares'.

2 Every gift appreciated by children from low income families.

3 Geza was a resident on a rehabilitation course for alcoholics when the shoeboxes were distributed and this experience of unexpected kindness marked a turning point in his attitude towards others. When he received a box full of gifts he was so surprised. It made a big impact on him. On his next visit home his wife noticed the difference in his kindness towards her and his 8 year old son. Since completing his course in the Transylvanian village of Ozd he frequently tells how his life has changed. Now he has a job and his relationship with his family has healed.

Reading items like this just puts everything into perspective and makes filling shoeboxes so worthwhile. If you wish to be involved please do contact me on 01268 710757. Blythwood issued leaflets to give an idea what to put in.

Lastly a big thank you to everyone who has supported me by knitting teddies, clowns, blankets, jumpers etc. and also for filling the toiletry boxes and Christmas shoeboxes. A big thank you too to Isabel and the 'Teddy Baggers' who meet regularly at Isabel's home to put the teddies into their individual cloth bags and also sew many knitted squares into lovely blankets.

Wishing you a wonderful Christmas and a very happy new year. God bless.

Audrey Pegrum MBE, Essex Branch Organiser



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- 2 tbs olive oil
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- 2 cloves garlic - crushed (optional)
- 1 tbs paprika
- ¼ tsp cayenne pepper
- 400g (14oz) can of plum tomatoes
- 2 tbs tomato puree
- 300ml (1/2 pint) water
- 100g (4oz) each of sliced carrots, sliced courgettes, small mushrooms, mixed peppers and sweetcorn
- 2 medium potatoes - peeled and diced
- Salt and ground black pepper to taste
- 150ml (¼ pint) soured cream or natural yoghurt

To garnish

Sprinkling of fresh chopped parsley and paprika

Method

1. Pre-heat oven to Gas 4, 350F, 180C.
2. Start by heating the oil in a flameproof casserole dish. Fry the onion and garlic until softened. Stir in the paprika and cayenne pepper.
3. Cook for a minute then add the tomatoes, tomato puree and water. Bring to boiling point.
4. Add all the vegetables. Season with salt and ground black pepper. Cover and transfer to pre-heated oven. Bake for 30-40 minutes.
5. Finally, stir in the soured cream or yoghurt. Garnish with a sprinkling of chopped parsley and paprika. Serve with buttered brown rice.

Joan Wright



PLEASE NOTE

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Fun Whist

As I am sure many will have noted, we now have a beautiful, refurbished kitchen at the Hall. Getting to the stage of 'beautiful' involved quite a lot of upheaval for all who use the Hall and Fun Whist was no exception! When we arrived for the August Whist evening, the evidence of building in progress meant we had to use the New Hall, rather than our usual venue in the Old. Roy had manfully dusted down chairs and tables for everyone so we were able to use them without getting ourselves too grubby. The Dunkirk Spirit prevailed and we all thoroughly enjoyed the evening.

Fun Whist continues (normal venue) on the second Saturday of the month, commencing at 7.15pm. Please join us and get to know your Hall and meet some of your neighbours.

Angela Hodivala



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I saw this ad' Ten pounds a load, twelve tons or maybe more,
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I quickly sent an order off, with what I had to pay.
They telephoned to say they would deliver it next day.

That day I left work promptly and caught an early train,
The sun was shining brilliantly, not a sign of rain.
I hurried from the station, full of joy and glee,
Little did I realise the shock awaiting me.

As I turned into our avenue I met this awful pong.
And realised right away there was something very wrong.
Some said it was a gas leak, whilst others blamed the drains'
One old dear declared it had been dropped by Russian planes.

A council bloke who gathered leaves up with a pointed stick
Was leaning on his barrow, quietly being sick,
The vicar passing caught a whiff and sank down on his knees,
I thought he was praying, but all he did was wheeze.

Then I saw my heap all steaming, and realised the source,
The neighbours looked quite angry, so I swiftly changed my course.
Around the back I slyly crept, and climbed the garden fence,
Keeping a low profile and a stick for self defence.

I found the back door open, and went into the hall,
Then shouted out 'I'm home dear' so far as I recall,
But the wife had left a message propped up on the phone,
To say that she had left me and would not be coming home.

The dog was lying on its back with feet up in the air,
I looked into the bird cage, but the budgie's perch was bare
So into the kitchen for a crafty glass of beer,
Then upstairs to change into my oldest gardening gear'

With spade and fork and barrow, I set about that heap,
By ten o'clock I'd got it down to barely four feet deep
I offered friends a share of it if they'd come to my aid.
Really you would not believe the excuses that they made.

It was late on Sunday evening before I'd cleared the lot,
A good three feet of steaming gunge was spread across the plot.
At six on Monday morning, I tottered down the stairs,
With aching back and joints in need of emergency repairs.

I ate a hearty breakfast and was cleaning up the floor
When an ancient tractor driver came knocking at the door,
He muttered a 'good morning guv' sorry I forgot,
I've brought along the other half where do you want it shot?"

Reprinted by special request

Bert Edwards

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To participate or see background, please go to www.ramsdenbellhouse.com and click on Saving Lives.

Thanks to the combined efforts of Ramsden Bellhouse Parish Council and the Village Management Committee it has been possible to obtain a 'state of the art' Automated External Defibrillator (AED) that will hopefully never have to be used. However as the statistics show it is just as likely to be required in Ramsden Bellhouse at some stage as it will be in any other village in Essex.

If a situation should arise where you are faced with having to make a decision as to whether you would be prepared to save someone's life (who could be a family member or neighbour) by using the Defibrillator or do nothing, what would you do?

Whilst none of us hope that we will ever be in this situation, the reality is one or more of us may either have our lives saved or may find yourself saving someone else's thanks to the use of this equipment.

In order to make this possible it is important that we identify those residents and users of the village hall who are prepared to give up a couple of hours in order to take some very simple training on how to operate the Defibrillator. The unit is incredibly easy to use, the process is almost automatic and is only repeated if required by the user until the emergency services arrive and take over.

At this stage we want to know who is willing to come along to the village hall and take part in the training meeting, if after the training session you do not feel you are able to be counted on to operate the equipment, then it is not a problem and there is no commitment. In order to provide you with as much information as possible a Q&A session will be part of the training process.

In order that we can have good coverage of the village should you or one of your neighbours ever need to have use of the equipment, we will

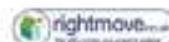


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Village Events throughout the year



Bowls Garden Party



Bowls Garden Party



Music Festival



Music Festival



Kitchen Refurbishment



Kitchen Refurbishment



St Mary's Flower Festival



Music Festival



Opening of new kitchen



Defibrillator demonstration



100th Celebration



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endeavour to reflect this in the location of those to be trained.

How to participate

Over the last six months the village magazine, RBPC notice board, RBPC and Village Hall web sites and e shots have been used to communicate that it was the objective of the Parish Council and the Village Hall Management Team to obtain a Defibrillator for Ramsden Bellhouse residents' use.

We are pleased to say that all 40 places on the two training sessions that were arranged for August went very quickly and were fully booked.

So now, hopefully, if you are in the company of one of the people who have completed the course, they will be in a position to operate the AED and make the difference in terms of saving your or someone else's life if the need should ever arise.

However, do you know who they are and, if you do, what happens if you find that they are not at home, away on holiday or at work; "what do I do now" I hear you ask?

With only a few minutes to act, what will you do? Waiting for an



Grahame Farley

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ambulance to arrive quite possibly may not be the best option for you, your family, friends or neighbours?

As you will gather we are trying to make sure we have the best coverage of trained people within the village, rather than adopt the approach that 'it will not happen to me'.

The majority of those who have signed up for training so far will, hopefully, have the best chance of helping themselves or others to survive a heart attack. Are you one of them?

Whilst the good news is that the majority of the people who have had training on the defibrillator are members of the various clubs, or people who attend activities at the Village Hall, including Cubs, Bowls, Table Tennis, Dancing, Horticultural, Play School etc. Unfortunately, the bad news is that a large percentage of people who attend these clubs etc do not live in the village. It has been noted that (excluding Village Hall Club Members) only a few residents have signed up so far to attend the training; three from Church Road, one from Glebe Road, three from Orchard Avenue, three from Homestead Road and none from Ramsden Park Road. I leave you to consider whether you feel it is a sufficient number?

In order to try to address and improve the coverage throughout the village and surrounding area, NHS Eeast have kindly agreed to consider arranging further sessions for AED training in October and November, provided there is a demand/need amongst the residents of Ramsden Bellhouse.

While we wait for the dates to be confirmed, can you please advise if you would like to attend; there is no cost involved. Please provide your Name, House Name and Street. If you attend any of the clubs or activities which take place in the village hall can you please also provide details of these. It will be arranged on a first come basis and you will be contacted to confirm which date you prefer prior to your place being confirmed.

Please contact your friends and neighbours in the village and make them aware of this opportunity; you can arrange to sign up together. We are pleased to be given a second chance to take up this offer of free training; in life not everyone gets a second chance. Let's use this second opportunity to gain the skills to save someone's life, including possibly your own!

Email address to apply is mailing@ramsdensbellhouse.info

Richard Wellborne. Chairman Ramsden Bellhouse Parish Council

Social Secretary's Report

The party on the green was a great success. Thank you to everyone who supported our first venture into the world of music festivals. I don't think anyone was disappointed with the choice of music as there was 'something for everyone'. All the artists were well received, The Dukes, a ten piece ukulele band, our local



girl Hollie Barrie, David Van Day and his wife Sue Moxley, Andre Dennison Soul Band and lastly d.j. Sean who played in between each act and who provided the laser show. The tickets were £20.00 which included eight hours of entertainment, a hog roast, burgers, sausages and fish and chips were available to purchase. Kish and Jay kindly kept the



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shop open until 11 p.m. for those who ran out of drink or fancied a samosa or a cup of tea or coffee. The weather was really kind all afternoon and evening, the music playing until well into the night finishing with a great laser show.

All the committee together with family and friends worked really hard to make this event a success so with your support once again we plan to hold the 'party' next year, watch out for the date.

See you there!!

The next event on the calendar is the Christmas Bazaar which takes place on the 28th November, after Father Christmas is safely in his grotto, at 1 p.m. we hold a children's fancy dress competition with cash prizes, so please encourage your children to come along and take part. There will be lots of fun and craft stalls to visit and food and plants to purchase. There is a great atmosphere so please come and support your Village Hall.

Ann Wellborne, Social Secretary.
Ramsden Bellhouse Village Hall.



Dog Training

We had a brilliant show on 5th. September at Crays Hill, everyone but everyone from all different clubs said what a nice show it was. The success was due to all the help the Members gave on the day and two days previously (many hands make light work). A special mention must go to Doreen Hook who worked tirelessly for three days and she is not even on the committee, thank you Doreen it was much appreciated. Well done to all our Members who did well working their dogs at the show! We also raised a good amount for the hall charity this year.



Many of our Members have done well at shows this year, congratulations to you all and we wish a happy retirement to border collie Fly.

The show season is nearly over - two of our members have qualified to show their dogs at Crufts next year - well done Fiona and Ludo and Derek and Albert.

Good luck to everyone next year.

Valerie Dean, Vice Chairman

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Christmas Stars for Remembrance

Christmas is a poignant time for families and friends who cannot celebrate together, as Ramsden resident Lynne Childs knows too well. Mother-of-two-sons Lynne, 60, of Glebe Road, lost her father, Charles, two years ago so the holiday season will never be quite the same again. But she and her mother, Sylvia, found great comfort last year when they went along to a special Light up a Life service to hang a star on the Christmas tree in his memory. This year they will once again be joining in one of the services run by St Luke's Hospice, Basildon to remember absent loved ones. External funding officer, Allison Jones, said: "We all have cherished ones who cannot be with us physically but are in our thoughts, especially at Christmas. "Our commemorative stars can be hung on the tree to honour the memory of any special person who aren't with us – either because they have died or because they are separated by distance. They do not have to have been cared for by the hospice." Lynne, who now volunteers for St Luke's, said: "Mum and I went to one of the commemorative services last year for the first time and found it very comforting to remember Dad in this way. It was just a positive thing to do. "We enjoyed so many family Christmasses together in the past so Dad's death was a huge loss for all the family. Dad's first great-grandchild Sophia was born just six weeks before he died. He did get to have a cuddle but would have so loved to have been there with her at Christmas. The special Light up a Life star helped to close up that gap a bit.

"The service itself was joyous with children putting on a nativity with a live pony. But the services are open to everyone whether or not they have a particular faith. We are looking forward to going again this year." It will be even more special as St Luke's is celebrating its 25th anniversary of caring. What's more, the hospice has been chosen as the village's adopted charity for the year. "Four Light up a Life events have been organised at different venues so as many people as possible will be able to come along, hang their star, and remember their loved ones in their own special way. They will be held on: Sunday, November 29 at Basildon Eastgate Centre at 4pm. Friday, December 4 at Basildon Crematorium at 4.30pm. Saturday, December 5 at St Mary Magdalen Church, Billericay at 12 pm. Saturday, December 12 at Grays shopping centre at 4pm. Light up a Life stars to hang on the commemorative trees are available in exchange for a donation to the hospice. Dedication forms are available from the hospice by calling 01268 524973, emailing fundraising@stlukeshospice.co.uk or visiting the website at

www.stlukeshospice.com Applicants will receive two stars – one to hang on one of the hospice 25th anniversary trees and one to keep for themselves, and all names will also be recorded in a special hospice Dedication Book.



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Line Dancing

Our club is still going strong with the support of our two great teachers who come along whatever the weather to guide us through our steps. Our numbers are still growing but definitely room for more members. We meet on Monday afternoon 2 p.m. for an hour (except on Bank Holidays) and the class is still only £2.00. Please come and join us.

Ann Wellborne



A Celebration of Bygone Years

On a beautiful sunny day in August, four generations of our family, together with most of Orchard Avenue, friends and other relatives celebrated a hundred years in Orchard Avenue, Ramsden Bellhouse with an all day "Drop In."

It was a simple celebration of friendship and memories, but successful beyond our wildest dreams! In all about one hundred and fifty "dropped in" and happily stayed.

Barbara brought a most beautiful cake, a present from the Hall management Committee, and we have to thank Ken, Ernie, Rusi and Roy for putting up the large tent, as well as putting out chairs and tables. Thanks also to Joan Wright and Linda Agate for making tea and coffee, and to those who helped with the washing up, and finally neighbours who helped with other preparations.

Undoubtably the star of the day was great granddaughter Megan aged 8, who with her brother Thomas aged 4 organised tours of Fairyland. This was totally unplanned, but by lunchtime she had made her notices, done the advertising and was ready for business. There was some discussion between them about a charge, but great grandmamma vetoed this! Each tour was organised with precision, imagination and a large amount of



bossiness (Yes - I know what you are thinking - who else do you know is a bossy organiser?) A pity she lives in Hertfordshire, she could be of great use to the Hall Committee in years to come!!

Thanks to all who came and made our day so wonderful from Isabel, Anne, Christine, Stuart, Kirsty, Lizzie, Megan and Thomas.

Isabel Johnson

P.S. I'm 62 and unique amongst my friends to return to the home where I grew up with family and grandparents, and still have my mum at aged 89 in such good health and one of my best friends.

My grandchildren play where my sister, cousin and I played - amazing.

Anne Green



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If you have a story to tell contact the Editor

Baptist Church

I mentioned in my last article that we would be holding another "Tea at the Ritz" on Saturday 13th June. This took place as planned, and as usual much effort was made to prepare the church hall to look welcoming and inviting. The chairs were all covered for the occasion and the tables were made to look just the ticket for a "tea at the Ritz". We were fully booked and the hall was full. It was a great success that was enjoyed by all present.

Prior to that Pauline Hamilton led a Ladies Retreat day at Pleshey on 16th May. This was much appreciated by the ladies who attended, and they were encouraged by the content of the day, with the intention of building up their faith in Christ.

On Sunday the 28th June the Baptist Church held their Church Anniversary service. Our Minister Jim Hamilton led the service and preached from John chapter 14 in which Jesus told his disciples that he was "The Way, the Truth and the Life". The day was not only the church anniversary but also the 60th Wedding Anniversary of Sylvia and Tom Ealham who were attending the service with family members. This made the service extra special for Sylvia & Tom, and for all the congregation who shared in this special anniversary. After the service we had further celebrations with a lovely cake for the occasion.

Our Minister and his wife went to America to visit their son and family during September for several weeks. During that period we had four Sundays when the services were led by the Rev Ray Bolton, our friend and member of the church and three other visiting speakers. These were all good services and beneficial to all attending. Jim and Pauline return on the 22nd September and Jim will be leading the service on the 27th.

In October we are having a "Day of Prayer" on Saturday the 3rd. Then on Sunday the 4th we are having our Harvest Service with the Scouts. The produce brought to the service will go to St Luke's Hospice. At the service we will have guests from 'Reach out to the Child South Africa'. As part of the service they will be telling us of a house building project for Sandile, a young man in SA. Our offering at the service will go toward the cost of that house.

Following on, during October, on Thursday the 8th October we will be starting our first "Home Group" in the evening. The format for the meeting would be similar in part to the Alpha course with a Bible Study, discussion and a Prayer time. It is intended to hold two further before the year end.

During November the plan is to hold a Men's Breakfast on a Saturday morning. A speaker is also being booked for that occasion.

So Christmas approaches! We are holding a "Toys & Tins" service with the Scouts on Sunday the 13th December. On Sunday 20th December we will be holding our "Carols by Candlelight Service".

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

Roger Newton, Church Secretary



Cubs Report

I'm starting this report by asking for your help in recruiting some new Cubs. We have had a lot of Cubs go up to Scouts during this year. If you know of any local boys and girls over the age of 7½ who might like to join us. Can you please get their parents to email me, Lin at linchil@hotmail.co.uk

The Cubs have mainly been working on the new Adventure Challenge badge, this has included quite a range of activities. Making and flying kites and hot air balloons, an evening at Thriftwood scout campsite practicing camp fire lighting, practicing tent pitching, an evening following tracking signs on the bridle paths in Mill Lane Ramsden Heath, raft building and sailing on Barleylands lake and a water games night outside at the hall.

Cubs went to camp twice last term. They joined hundreds of other Cubs from all over Essex for the County Mega Camp at Skreens Park near Chelmsford. Saturday was spent doing as many activities as they could ranging from climbing and crafts to rafting and learning about the solar system. For the second camp they joined up with Ramsden Scouts for a group camp at Gilwell Park. This was American Independence weekend so we had an American themed camp. A few of the activities were T shirt printing with stars and stripes, making figures of American characters from recycling and tracking to find pictures of American animals.

Akela

Scouts Report

The last few months have been very busy for the Scouts. We had a very successful joint camp with the Cubs in July at the home of Scouting 'Gilwell Park'; the theme was American Independence Day.

Thirty two children and adults attended, activities included cooking their own American meal, printing American themed tee shirts, rifle shooting, climbing and grass sledging.

In May twenty five scouts and adults cycled from Rayne to Hatfield Forest and back, and stopped for a picnic in the forest. At the end of the twenty eight miles there were a few aching limbs and the odd puncture, but everyone made it to the end. The Scouts have also been learning how to maintain a bicycle and cycling safety, the ride completed the scouts cycling badge.

Out nights have included an evening at the golf driving range, a visit to the Runwell Scout group bouldering wall, Partyman World, Thriftwood for backwoods cooking, fire safety and runouts, games in the park and raft building at Barleylands. We have played various sports including rounders and newspaper hockey, worked on the fitness badge, had a water pistol fight where everyone including leaders got soaked, the scouts attempted to learn how to wire a plug with limited success, we made bird feeders and cooked pancakes.

Scouts meet on a Wednesday evening at the Ramsden Bellhouse Village Hall. If anyone would like to learn more about Scouts and are aged between ten and half and fourteen and a half please call Chris on 01277 652337 or 07592 073302

Chris Maker, Scout Leader



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Scottish Logic

A man in Scotland calls his son in London the day before Christmas Eve and says, I hate to ruin your day, but I have to tell you that your Mother and I are divorcing; forty-five years of misery is enough.

'Dad, what are you talking about?' the son screams. We can't stand the sight of each other any longer,' the father says. "We're sick of each other, and I'm sick of talking about this, so you call your sister in Leeds and tell her.'

Frantic, the son calls his sister, who explodes on the phone. 'Like hell They're getting divorced,' she shouts, 'I'll take care of this,' she calls Scotland immediately, and screams at her father, 'You are NOT

getting divorced. Don't do a single thing until I get there. I'm calling my brother back, and we'll both be there tomorrow. Until then, don't do a thing. DO YOU HEAR ME?' and hangs up.

The old man hangs up his phone and turns to his wife. 'Okay,' he says, they're coming for Christmas and they're paying their own way.'

Author unknown



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Dancing

Dancing continues to be well-attended on Sunday evenings. Since the Summer magazine, we have held our annual charity event in May, as in previous years - a square dance with caller. The caller was great value as always, allowing everyone from the experienced to the novice to join in, tying us up in knots. Most of us lost the ability to know our lefts from our rights, all amongst great hilarity. And



we managed to raise £350 for the Hall's chosen charity, St Luke's Hospice. The few weeks break in the summer while the kitchen was being renovated gave us the excuse to run one of our 'bring-a-plate buffets' on the last Sunday before the work started, when there tends to be more eating and talking than dancing.

We had another buffet in late September to celebrate the Golden Wedding Anniversaries of four of our members - both couples having married on the same day 50 years ago and just one hour apart! Congratulations to Barbara and Frank Chudley and also to Glenys and Bryan Waeland.

At the time of writing, we look forward to other celebrations - our traditional annual Ball in October, continuing the event that Joan Telkmann started for us many years ago; a Hallowe'en party; a Christmas meal; and, of course, the return of Strictly!

Barry Gardiner



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Bus Timetable

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

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

	NS	SO	NS
South Woodham, Asda	08:00	09:00	11:00
South Woodham, Rail Station	08:05	09:05	11:05
Woodham Rd, Opp. Butterfly Farm	08:09	09:09	11:09
Rettendon, Turnpike Corner	08:14	09:14	11:14
Runwell, Church	08:18	09:18	11:18
Wickford, Opp. The Swan P H	08:21	09:21	11:21
Brock Hill, Downham Road	08:25	09:25	11:25
Ramsden Heath, White Horse	08:33	09:33	11:33
Ramsden Bellhouse, Glebe Rd	08:37	09:37	11:37
Crays Hill, Shepherd & Dog	08:42	09:42	11:42
Noak Bridge, South Wash Road	08:47	09:47	11:47
Miles Gray Road, Opposite B&Q	08:50	09:50	11:50
Basildon, Bus Station Stand R	08:55	09:55	11:55
Basildon Hospital	09:00	—	—

	NS
Basildon Hospital	—
Basildon, Bus Station Stand R	10:00
Miles Gray Road, B&Q	10:05
Noak Bridge, South Wash Road	10:08
Crays Hill, Opposite Shepherd & Dog	10:13
Ramsden Bellhouse, Glebe Rd	10:18
Ramsden Heath, White Horse	10:22
Brock Hill, Downham Road	10:30
Wickford, The Swan Pub	10:34
Runwell, Quart Pot	10:37
Rettendon, Turnpike Corner	10:41
Woodham Rd, Butterfly Farm	10:46
South Woodham, Opp. Rail Station	10:50
South Woodham, Asda	10:55

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

SO - This journey operates on Saturdays only.

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

Village Events

NOVEMBER

Saturday 7th	Crunch	9am - midday	Village Hall
Sunday 8th	Remembrance Service	10.45 am	Village Hall
Saturday 14th	Whist Drive	7.15pm	Village Hall
Saturday 28th	Christmas Bazaar	Midday	Village Hall

DECEMBER

Saturday 12th	Whist Drive	7.15pm	Village Hall
Thursday 17th	Carol Service	7.30 pm	St Mary's Church
Sunday 20th	Carols by Candlelight	4.00 pm	Baptist Church

JANUARY 2016

Saturday 9th	Whist Drive	7.15pm	Village Hall
Saturday 30th	Crunch	9am - midday	Village Hall
Sunday 31st	Village Hall AGM	3.00 pm	Village Hall

FEBRUARY

Saturday 13th	Whist Drive	7.15pm	Village Hall
Saturday 27th	History of Ramsden Exhibition	2.00 - 5.00 pm	Village Hall
Sunday 28th	History of Ramsden Exhibition	11.00 am - 5.00 pm	Village Hall

MARCH

Friday 4th	Womens World Day of Prayer	10.30am	Baptist Church
Saturday 12th	Crunch	9am - midday	Village Hall
Saturday 12th	Whist Drive	7.15pm	Village Hall

APRIL

Saturday 9th	Whist Drive	7.15pm	Village Hall
Sunday 24th	St Georges Breakfast	9am - 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
	Social Secretary	- Ann Wellborne	710250
	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
Horticultural	3rd Monday in the month except July, August and December	- Rusi Hodivala	710619
Ladies Medan	Thursday 8pm	- Veronica Greenwood	01702 559914
Cubs	Wed 5.45pm - 7.15pm	- Lin Prince	01268 710143
Scouts	Wed 7.30pm - 9.30pm except 2nd Wed in month	- Chris Maker	01277 652337
Baptist Church	Roger Newton		01268 710259
Bowls	Mon 7.30pm		
	Wed 10am		
	Fri 1.30pm	- Angela Hodivala	01268 710619
Dancing Club	Every Sunday 7.30pm - 10.30pm		
	General Dancing	- Barry Gardiner	07702 233898
Whist Drive	Roy Richards (see Village Events)		710669
Line Dancing	Every Monday 2.00pm - 3.00pm	Ken Dobson	710771
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Ramsden Parish Council	Karen Plumridge Clerk		01245 400628



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