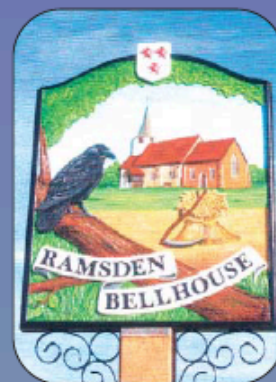


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## Village Magazine Winter 2016



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## A Word from the Editor

After 27 years as Editor to our Village Magazine, I was beginning to wonder what I could possibly write about. I have praised and nagged about many aspects and attitudes of village life - so what now?

However yesterday on my walk through the Village an old problem reared its ugly head. Two large white builders vans were parked astride the footpath. To continue on my way I had two options. I could walk into the road with limited view of oncoming traffic, or trespass across someone's garden. I chose the latter. I had to make the same choice on the way back.

Now I know that the footpath is not exactly crowded with pedestrians, but nevertheless to block it, is an accident waiting to happen. There are mothers with baby buggies, people with shopping bags on wheels and dog walkers, all endangering their lives, or trespassing through someone's garden. I know you are thinking - where else can they park? And I reply - that is not my problem, my problem is not getting killed or causing an accident by walking in the road, when I should be walking on the pavement.

So please, if you are having any work done on your property, give a thought to the pedestrian and their right to use the footpath.

Having got that off my chest, we are once more on the build up to Christmas. It arrived in the Garden Centres in August, and by the time this reaches you it will be in full swing. Father Christmas, featured on the front cover, will be visiting Ramsden Bellhouse on December 3rd at Midday in the Village Hall. I think there may be presents, after he has ascertained who's been good or otherwise. Those parking on the footpath won't get any, or those who drop litter in the Village, don't pick up dog poo, or light bonfires before 4pm!

Enough! A positive thankyou to all those connected with the production, publication and delivery of this magazine, as well as the advertisers. Copy for the next issue by March 20th either to me, or preferably to [bryan.diggory@sky.com](mailto:bryan.diggory@sky.com). Original articles, poems and stories very welcome.

Isabel Johnson

Village Website [www.ramsdenbellhouse.info](http://www.ramsdenbellhouse.info)

## Chairmans Report

The summer this year has been long and hot, even now I am not certain if it is over. The last rain of any consequence in Ramsden Bellhouse was at the time of our Music event 25th June, if you remember a couple of days before the event we were flooded. During this summer I went on holiday to a village in Pembrokeshire called Roch, South Wales, needless to say it rained most of the time, we only had a couple of days when we could go down on the beach. When I returned one look at the grass it was obvious that it had not rained while I was away. Such is the weather in this country. I mentioned earlier our Music event which was in spite of the ground being soaked turned out to be very successful in raising funds for the running of the village hall. I must thank all those who helped set up, organise and take down this event. I must mention at this point, we do need extra help at events like this to set up and take down, so please come forward and help us next year.

Remembrance Day is the next event on the calendar. This event is organised by both of the Churches on Sunday 13th Nov 2016 in remembrance of those who lost their lives in service to this country from the 1st world war to the present.

Just before Christmas we are holding a Christmas Bazaar, all are welcome, Father Christmas will be there in his grotto for the Kids together with face painting, games etc. There will be stall cakes and refreshments etc. for adults. The funds raised at this event will help to run the hall. Please come along.

It only remains for me to wish you all a happy Christmas and new year  
C. Jeffree

Ramsden Bellhouse Village Hall Chairman  
ramsdenbellhouse.info



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

### Advertising Rates

Coloured Half pages - limited	£33.00
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## Social Secretary's Report

### Music Festival.

We did it again!! The village came together once again for our second Music Festival, it was very well attended, everyone ready to have a really good time. Once again the D'uke's opened up proceedings with a rousing selection of music, next to perform was Idreiss a great soul and pop singer who gave a moving performance, unfortunately it was then we experienced some rain but it didn't dampen everyone's spirits as they were able to shelter under the marquees. Up next was Sal Bashir the no.1 Elvis tribute who brought the sunshine with him serenading the ladies with his seductive charm and swivelling hips. His repertoire included all the favourites and he left the stage to a standing ovation. The last act to appear was the duo Minaji a funk and soul duo vocalist and saxophonist belting out exciting sounds.

The dj joined the acts together and all went off smoothly with lots of singing, dancing and merriment. Burgers, hot dogs and a hog roast was on offer, face painting and goodies to buy for the children. The evening ended at midnight with everyone asking "Are you doing it again next

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year" We are hoping to do so but we desperately need help in setting up so if anyone is interested in giving a hand it would be much appreciated, contact nos. are below. Nearly 300 people attended the Festival and we made just over £2.000 profit which goes to the upkeep Village Hal. See you next year.

### Christmas Bazaar

Once again the Christmas Bazaar is happening on the 3rd December, Father Christmas will be visiting us again so please come down to the village hall at 12. noon and have a wander round, even stop for lunch. There will be lots of different stalls, craft and fun stalls, face painting, plants and plenty of those delicious cakes that are so popular. Look forward to seeing you.

Ramsden Bellhouse Village Hall.

Ann Welborne 01268 710250

Abby Short 01268 711675



### Dancing

Time flies when you enjoy yourself and we have had some celebrations since the last edition. Frank and Barbara, Glynis and Bryan Golden Wedding Anniversary celebration( same day) Betty and George Ruby Wedding anniversary celebration. Peter and Liz celebrate significant birthdays. All with little get togethers.

We are planning our Halloween dance and a little xmas thing but look forward to going out as a group for our new year bash.

We will be holding our Charity Square Dance in May date to be advised you will have to book early as we are limited by numbers and we usually sell out.

Keep Dancing

Barry Gardiner

### **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 2017.** to **bryan.diggory@sky.com**

## Good Bees and Village Honey

This summer, the honey I've collected from my garden bee hives is slightly darker than usual. Instead of the golden honey I've been used to seeing in recent years, the honey I've just extracted is more like a liquid amber. This colour, and its distinct flavour, will come from the flowers the bees have been foraging on - and I believe that my bees have been largely flying to the bramble in the hedgerows. Bramble flowers are a favourite food source for bees; watch any bramble hedge in high summer when the small, white, blackberry flowers are out and you will see it buzzing with bees. Bramble honey has a delicious flavour, too, all thanks to the bees' hard work.

When I take my honey from the hives, I'm following a village tradition that is centuries old. I'm using different equipment, of course - and methods that are kinder to the bees (modern beekeeping is all about protecting the bees) but the principle of taking the honey is the same. We know that there is a long history of beekeeping in this area because in the Domesday Book of 1086, Ramsden Bellhouse has four bee hives. Village bee hives were important, which was why they were recorded.

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Honey was not only valued for its taste, but for other reasons, too. It was seen as an essential food to improve fertility. A newly wed couple would be given a diet rich in fermented honey (mead) throughout the first month of their marriage (the origin of 'honeymoon'). Mead has also been seen as having health properties. The Romans believed that drinking mead gave you a long life and when the Vikings raided mead from the Saxons, they believed they were stealing a health food.

So when the village bees swarmed, it was essential that they were caught to preserve the precious honey crop. The Saxon king Alfred the Great issued a decree that 'every beekeeper must announce the issue of a swarm by ringing bells or clashing metals, so that it might be followed and captured'. Many medieval illustrations show villagers chasing after a swarm with sticks and metals, making sure that it didn't escape by flying into the next parish!

We know today that honey provides important health benefits, such as its ability to prevent infection following injury and to heal wounds and sores. It's also said that local honey improves the symptoms of hay fever, because eating honey rich in local pollen can help provide resistance to airborne pollen. Many hay fever sufferers swear by this. Honey mixed with hot water and lemon is a remedy for sore throats and a spoonful of honey in a glass of herbal tea or warm milk at night is said to overcome insomnia.

Honey has been part of the way we've lived for thousands of years and we're still learning about how special it is. It is amazing to think that such a super food can be produced from a few bramble flowers in a village hedgerow.

Wendy Swift



## Line Dancing

The line dancing club is still going strong meeting every Monday at 2.30. p.m. until 3.30. p.m. except Bank Holidays. We dance to a wide range of music from Rod Stuart to Jim Reeves. Our teachers Lyn and Jean introduce us to new dances every couple of weeks, adding to our vast repertoire of dances. We welcome anyone who has an hour to spare, bring a friend and pop in and see us even if it is just to watch and decide if it is for you.

Ann Wellborne

The page is framed by decorative elements. On the left, a vertical vine with leaves and a flower. On the right, a butterfly. At the bottom, a large, intricate floral design with swirling patterns and a butterfly.

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## **St Mary's Church**

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### **Assistant Priests:**

Rev. Jean Andrews, 01268 733817

Rev. Miranda Seaman, 01277 841921

Lay Reader: Mrs. Suzy Edmundson, 01245 224181

Churchwarden: Mrs. Beryl Clements, 01245 601298

### **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: Benefice Holy Communion rotating between St. Mary's, St. Margaret's, Downham, and St. Peter's, South Haningfield, usually at 10.00am.

We invite everybody to join us at our Sunday service as above. If you are unfamiliar with church services, try for a start the Family Service on the 4th Sunday of each month at 10.30am – a short 40 minute service for all ages.

Our first social event of the year, our annual Quiz in April organised by Angela and Steve Tuff was an outstanding success, attracting 12 teams and raising £582 for Church funds.

Next came the Concert by the very talented Southend Vox Choir in May. This was enjoyed by some 60 people and raised the sum of £530.

In June, the Village Hall was once again packed for our Strawberry Cream Tea, which raised a further £680.

In August, our Flower Festival weekend started on a high note with a concert by the Sid Bolan Big Band – held this time in the Church grounds on a beautiful hot evening. Some 80 people attended, bringing their own picnics and many compliments were made on the entertainment provided by the Band and Vocalist. The Concert raised £706.

The Flower Festival is intended to be our main fund raiser of the year for maintenance of the Church, but after the Concert where was everybody? Last year, in spite of periods of rain, there was a good attendance of people to view the floral displays, enjoy the refreshments

and patronise the stalls. This year the weather was good, but the attendance poor, which naturally affected the takings, the total at the time of writing this being £2234 - £700 down on last year. This was made up by the profit on the Concert, but that was meant to be an extra fund raiser. Refreshments, including the normally popular Ploughman's Lunches, were down by £250, even after taking into account the £52 raised from a new venture, cream teas. Sales of Raffle Tickets were down by 30%. A disappointing result considering all houses in the Village received a leaflet. We are very thankful for the efforts of people living outside the Village in the running of this event. Our thanks to the Flower Arrangers, tent erectors, stall holders etc.

On Friday 11th November there will be a Beetle Drive at 7.30pm at the Village Hall, this being St. Mary's contribution to the Village Charity Effort. Tickets £5 including refreshments available from Audrey on 01268 710757 or Beryl on 01245 601298.

Our close relationship with Ramsden Bellhouse Baptist Church continues, the next joint event being the Remembrance Sunday Service at 10.45am on Sunday 13th November at the Village Hall and with the Cubs and Scouts on parade. Members of both Churches – men and women – meet every Monday (except school holidays) at the Baptist Church Hall any time between 10.30am and noon for coffee and fellowship, with interesting speakers on alternate weeks. Everybody welcome, particularly those who don't belong to either Church.

Alan Pegrum



## **Scouts Report**

Another busy term for the scouts, who have been taking part in a wide range of activities. This term they have been working on various badges including the team work and personal challenge badges. The personal challenge involved the scout choosing tasks, for example, looking after a pet or keeping their bedroom tidy for a few weeks, the parents enjoyed this badge!

We also celebrated Easter, we held an Easter egg hunt, painted ceramic eggs, toasted hot cross buns and held an Easter themed quiz, we also celebrated father's day and all the scouts made a key fob for their dads.

Out nights consisted of a trip to Thriftwood Scout camp in Brentwood, for fire lighting, backwoods cooking and wide games, in June we took part in Canoeing at Barleylands Lake and we also had a picnic in the local park with a Rounder's match.

Scout nights at the hall have included, learning about lamps and stove safety, cycle maintenance and road safety, dangers of smoke, drink and drugs, making a swing with pioneering poles, balloon popping game, and discussing the EU referendum

We held a cycle ride from Rayne to Hatfield Forest and back, a total of 28 miles and raised £336 for the village hall charity 'Brainwave'

The term finish with the Annual end of term BBQ, where the weather remained kind, but the field was too wet for the end of term rounder's match, never mind there is always next year

The scouts meet on Wednesday evenings during term time at Ramsden Bellhouse Village Hall from 7.30 to 9.30 and the age range is from ten and a half to fourteen and a half. New scouts are always welcome, for further information please call Chris on 01277 652337 or 07592 073302

Jean Maker Assistant Scout Leader



## Cubs Report

Cubs had a busy time as usual last term, they went to the cinema to see the new Jungle book film. The first Wolf Cubs were based on Jungle Book, hence the Leaders being named after the characters. We had a red, white and blue night with party food to celebrate the Queens 90th birthday. They walked from Ramsden Bellhouse village hall to Ramsden Heath village hall following a map and answering questions on the way. They practiced tent pitching ready for camp and made Cub 100 banners to hang between the trees.

Cubs 100 celebrations continue with a coach trip to Gilwell Park the national home of scouting. They run two fundays each year with loads of activities, so many that the Cubs never get round them all, and this year was based on Cubs 100.

In July we all set off for the woods near Danbury (a Scout campsite) for our summer camp. 14 Cubs, 2 Scouts, 1 Young Leader and 6 Adults. We organised lots of traditional scouting activities that some of you may remember. Shelter building (bivvies), knotting and lashings to make a camp gadget (the bowl didn't fit in the wash stand very well), collecting fire wood, making fires and cooking their own lunch, a blind trail following a piece of rope over and under fallen trees, round trees, through ditches all while blindfolded. On the Saturday afternoon Cubs enjoyed a cool down with some water games.

We are asking for your help in recruiting some new Cubs. This term we are starting back with 15 Cubs so have room for anyone who would like to join us. If you know of any local boys and girls over the age of 7½ who might like to join Cubs. Can you please get their parents to email me, Lin at [linchil@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:linchil@hotmail.co.uk)

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## Parish Council

### Superfast Broadband !

A couple of years ago Ramsden Bellhouse Parish Council funded and produced a leaflet which was hand delivered to every home in the village giving details of the companies that were working with Essex County Council in order to encourage residents to register online with Superfastessex. It was explained that this was a requirement in order that Ramsden Bellhouse would be considered as part of the funding and roll out of the intended faster broadband programme.

Unfortunately to date residents of many other towns and villages throughout Essex have continued to respond in larger numbers than we have, which has meant they have been prioritised before us. The geography and location of Ramsden Bellhouse in its rural area also provides challenges for engineers from BT's local network business

### Openreach.

With an investment of £24.6 million, Phase 1 which includes 65,000 homes and Businesses are now enjoying download speeds of 24 Mbps and above as that part of the plan is completed.

Thanks to a further investment of £18.9 million which will extend the coverage to a further 51,000 homes, Phase 2 is well in hand.

Unfortunately as Ramsden Bellhouse is not included in either of these plans, with Phase 3 plans in the early stages and a further investment of £4.5 million available, it is paramount that if we want to be included in this final stage (which will take the penetration of fast speed broadband up to 97% throughout the county) that everyone in Ramsden Bellhouse that is interested in getting out of the slow lane (with only 2 Mbps) needs to register and demonstrate their interest with Superfast Essex as quickly as possible.

Contained within this magazine is a card that Superfast Essex Broadband have provided that needs to be completed with your details, as you will note you are not committing yourselves to anything other than registering that we as a community want faster broadband.

If you require further information on how you can get faster broadband for your home or business you can go to [www.superfastessex.org](http://www.superfastessex.org) web site which will give you the answers to any of the questions you may have, you can also register online if you prefer rather than using the card provided.

Those residents that have already registered do not need to do so again,

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but we would encourage you to speak with your friends and neighbours that are also having to endure and complain about slow Broadband and get them to register before it is too late.

#### Update on the Local Plan

Following the launch of the proposed Local Plan in January of this year over 150 of you attended a Parish Council meeting where Officers of Basildon Council were invited to attend and present their proposals.

Understandably it became apparent during the meeting that a large number of residents were unhappy with the proposed plans put forward by Basildon Council to create 45 new homes in mini developments/estates within existing Green Belt areas of the village. Concern was expressed that if this was allowed to proceed uncontested it would set a precedent and open the door to potentially larger scale developments in the future.

Basildon Council advised that they would be providing residents with an 8 week consultation period starting on the 13th February in order that they can submit their views on the plan.

The Parish Council together with representative Road Action Groups agreed that further consultation with the residents should take place, this was agreed to be in the form of a questionnaire which was delivered to every home in the village, in order to establish the preferred option for development if it had to proceed.

Following the response and feedback from the residents it was clear that the majority had voted overwhelmingly to recommend that the preferred option was an 'Infill Strategy' utilising infill sites along existing roads rather than mini estates. This preferred option was also reflected by a show of hands as the opinion of the majority of residents that attended the earlier meeting with Basildon Council.

Before the deadline of 24th March many of you completed and returned the Public Survey Forms on the Local Plan that were provided by Basildon Council as well as on line, with many of you also preferring to send letters supporting the 'Infill Strategy'.

Bringing you up to date in terms of timing for the rest of the process moving forward, as indicated in the Basildon Council proposal it would analyse responses which would take place between March and June, these would then be followed by a statement.

Basildon Council indicated that under "Redraft Local Plan" it was intended to move the plan forward through Scrutiny/Cabinet and Full

Council for approval to consult and submit to Government by the end of 2016.

Consultation would be completed and plan submitted by March 2017 and then followed by examination in Public before the Planning Inspector March - early 2018.

Subject to the above, Adoption would take place by Full Council as Development Plan in early 2018.

Following a published statement by Basildon Council with regard to Ramsden Bellhouse and the Local Plan, we have been advised by Basildon Council that they now wish to meet with the Parish Council in order that a further discussion can take place with regard to the proposed 'Infill Strategy'.

Given the lead times and press date of this publication, further updates will be provided online and through the RBPC Notice Board.

Richard Wellborne. Chairman Ramsden Bellhouse Parish Council



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## History of Ramsden goes digital

For the last 27 years Isabel Johnson who created 'The History of Ramsden' Exhibition has not only been organising the three day annual event (which usually takes place in the Ramsden Bellhouse Village Hall during February), she has also been adding content to the records, photos, illustrations and articles in order to keep it up to date.

The exhibition now contains many thousands of records many of which cannot be replaced and therefore would not be available to view in an exhibition if anything should happen to them in the future.

In order to make sure the History of Ramsden continues into the future and to preserve the items contained within the exhibition, a team of volunteers have agreed to give up their time in order to archive the files in the first part of a three stage process.

Stage 1. will require each item to be copied by scanning a reference print being taken and catalogued onto a database.

Stage 2. will require that a good quality print be produced to a high resolution standard.

Stage 3. will require many items to be encapsulated in order that they can be protected and mounted onto Exhibition Display Boards, whilst the remainder will be inserted into suitable reference folders in order that they can be catalogued, filed and importantly viewed at the exhibition.

As I am sure you can imagine, as well as the time consuming process that will take place and will be provided by the volunteers at each of the three stages, it will also require considerable funds in order to complete the project which includes the purchase of printers, scanners, software, consumables including ink and paper as well as large display boards and folders.

It is probably an understatement to say that it would be a shame to put at risk you having the opportunity to view all the historical items contained within the exhibition and prevent you, your children and future generations from doing the same in the future.

In order to avoid this happening a decision has been taken to set up a Historical Committee to look at ways of raising funds for the project, including obtaining grant funding and inquire if support can be provided by the Village Hall, Parish Council and other organisation's interested in preserving local history of the area including of course the village of Ramsden Bellhouse.

If you are either new to the village or the area of Ramsden, including

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WEDDING FLOWERS



Ramsden Heath, Ramsden Crays and surrounding towns and villages, please do not miss the opportunity to visit the History of Ramsden Exhibition. It will give you an insight into how the area has evolved over the years including the people and the landscape.

In addition you will also be able to see how some of the older properties have been developed and what was on your site where you now live, in many cases you will be able to view photos of the people that were there before you.

If only you could go back 600 years, in the exhibition you will be able to see interesting facts from the records which will help you to understand what was and is now the site of St Mary's Church.

In the future once the three stages of the project have been completed, with a digital version of the records and exhibition in place, when you attend the exhibition in the future it will be easier for you to select the photos or copies of records you require. You will be able to add to your family history by purchasing a digital photo or have a digital copy/file supplied in order that you can produce the same in whatever format you require.

As the process proceeds we will keep you up-to-date with the progress we have made and if you would like to contribute in any way, by helping and giving time to create the records, helping at the exhibition or to assist with the funding, please do not hesitate to let us know.

This is your part of Ramsden and your part of its history and future, let's not take a chance on losing it!

Ramsden Bellhouse Village Hall-Historical Committee



### **Suzy Writes**

As I'm writing this in the midst of the September heatwave, one thing is certain, this year our weather has been totally unpredictable, depending entirely on which way the wind was blowing!

That's not the only thing that has been unpredictable - who'd have thought at the start of the year that we would have voted yes to Brexit, with its consequences of the political upheavals, and the wave of racial hatred that it has unleashed. The financial outcome is still uncertain, and at the time of writing, so is the solution to the dispute between the unions and Southern Rail; as well as the dispute over the junior doctors pay and working hours. We live in a rapidly changing world with its many



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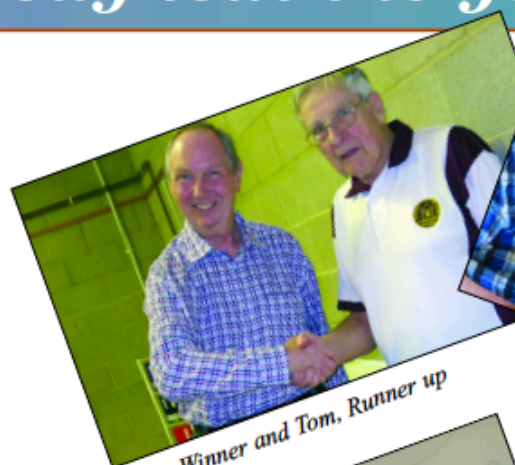
# Village Events throughout the year



Happy Birthday Clive



BBC Quest visits Ramsden



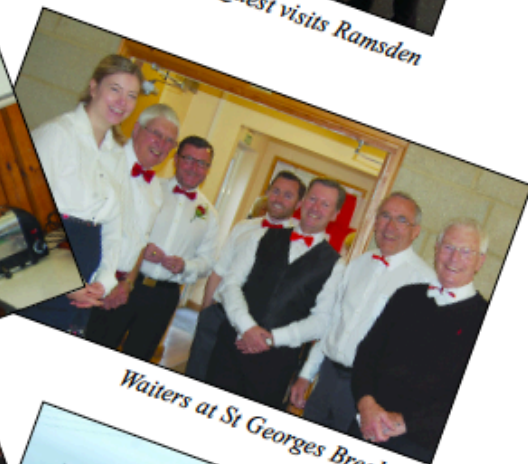
Peter, Winner and Tom, Runner up  
Bowls Singles



Perer & Kay, Winners, Emily & Tom  
Runners up, Bowls Doubles



Barbara helps at St Georges Breakfast



Waiters at St Georges Breakfast



Strawberry Tea



Music Festival



St Georges Breakfast



Road Works closes Church Road



Elvis  
lookalike.  
Music  
Festival



Big Band Concert, St Mary's



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dangers, divisions, controversies, and uncertainties.

However, as Christians, we believe in an unchanging God who loves us. We can trust him though thick and thin; through joy and sadness; sunshine and rain. He doesn't protect us from the hardships of life; But he does carry us through, even if it doesn't always feel like it at the time.

His love for each and every one of us is unbounded. His steadfast love gives believers the certainty that whatever happens, he will be there for us. Having said that, it's how we respond to his love that matters to God. We can either accept him or reject him - it's entirely up to us as individuals - the choice is ours! Like in the Brexit referendum, we do need to make an informed choice, so if you'd like to find out what the Christian faith might mean in your life, then do contact one of the ministry team (contact details are on St Mary's church noticeboard). Our family service is especially suitable for those with small children, however everyone is welcome to join us at some, or all of our services. For further information go to [www.downhamchurch.org.uk](http://www.downhamchurch.org.uk), or get a copy of the Herald our parish magazine.

With every blessing.

Suzy Edmundson

## Grahame Farley

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## A Lucky Find

On a very small island in the south pacific lived Tommy, Angus and Mick. These three mates had been shipwrecked two years previously. Living together they had soon become good friends and had set about making a life together. Each morning they would go down to the beach and collect any materials that had been washed up. It would be mainly driftwood but also old ropes from ships rigging would wash up along with lengths of wire. Sometimes they would find old pots and pans on the beach.

The first job they did was to build a raft so that they could go out a little way into the sea and catch fish with their homemade rods and line. This project proved very successful and they had soon learnt how to start a fire from natural resources and to cook their catches. They couldn't live on fish alone so they would tour the island searching for fruit, nuts and berries. There were a limited number of animals on the island so the friends would catch the occasional small deer or trap a wild boar. This would give them the variety of food that they needed for a healthy diet. When the stock of driftwood got bigger and the first winter approached they built a cabin to give them shelter against the strong winds and winter rain.

One hot summer morning the friends were resting on the beach when Tommy had a lucky find. Floating on the tide line was a green bottle. Tommy went down picked up the bottle and released the cork. Smoke came out from the neck and a Genie appeared. You can make one wish and then you must replace the cork and throw the bottle back into the sea said the Genie. Tommy replied, saying that he would like to go to Saville Row and be fitted out with a smart suit and all the accessories. Then there was a puff of smoke and Tommy was gone.

Life was enjoyable in London. Tommy walked up and down the busy streets showing off his new gear, trying hard to impress the ladies. On the island Angus and Mick carried on with their daily routine as normal.

Three weeks went by and then one day the green bottle got washed up onto the beach. This time it was Angus who had the lucky find. He withdrew the cork, the Genie asked him to make his wish before throwing the bottle back. Angus wished to go to Princes Street and be fitted out with a new tartan kilt and all that went with it. There was a puff of smoke and he was gone.

Angus enjoyed life in Edinburgh, he showed off his new kilt to all the visitors who came to the castle and other attractions. Back on the island

Mick struggled alone with all the tasks that were needed for his every day living.

One day while Mick was beach combing he spotted the green bottle floating in the sea. The raft was launched and he sailed off to retrieve the lucky find. Back on the beach he released the stopper and the Genie asked him what he would like. I am very lonely and I would like my two mates back was Mick's response and so this was how the three ancient mariners finished their lives living together on their very own small south sea island.

M. Craig



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## Baptist Church

Well summer is now drawing to a close, although September has left us feeling like it is still the height of summer with unseasonably high temperatures. We at R.B.B.C. have had a spring and summer of events, on Saturday 19th March we held a "Musical Tea" which was very well attended. Shirley and Bill Park were our entertaining guest speakers. We were very fortunate to have again both Vanessa who sang, and accompanied by David on the piano. There was also a musical quiz which tested everyone's knowledge about famous songs and composers. Appropriately each member of the winning team was given a box of chocolate pianos.

On Saturday 16th July we held our now very popular and famous "Tea at the Ritz", as with past "Teas" the afternoon fully lived up to expectations, with superb waiter service, delicious well presented food, and a hall dressed to compliment the famous name. Heidi and John Langley provided the excellent musical entertainment.

We at R.B.B.C. have a number of events and services planned for the autumn, winter, and spring seasons. During the lead up to Christmas Day we are holding a "Toys and Tins" service on Sunday 11th December at 10.30, items received will be given to Basildon Community Resource Centre for distribution to people and families in need. The items the centre request are toiletries, tinned food stuffs, and new toys. Our popular "Carols by Candlelight" service will be held on Sunday 18th December at 16.00. We have a Christmas Day service at 10.30. All are very welcome to these services, and it would be great to see anyone wishing to attend.

On Saturday 12th November we are holding a "Quiz Night", please look out for the posters in the village shop and village hall notice board giving contact details. On Saturday March 25th at 19.00 we are holding an evening based on Les Miserables, John and Heidi the professional musicians who entertained us at our "Tea at the Ritz" in July will be leading this, and it promises to be a memorable experience. Tickets will be available for this event in the new year.

We continue with our two regular drop in mornings, on Monday morning each week from 10.30 am to 12.00 midday we have our "Coffee Break". This is an opportunity to meet, have a coffee or tea and cake, and a chat. We have speakers on alternate weeks who talk on a wide range of very interesting subjects. Our "Drop in Breakfast" is becoming renowned and is very well attended, this is held on the first Saturday in the month

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from 09.00 until 11.00. All are welcome to these regular "Drop Ins" and the other special events planned for the autumn, winter and spring. It would be great to see you.

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

Val Rook, Church Secretary



### **Baked Marrow with Tomatoes and Coriander**

1 ½ lb marrow  
8 oz tomatoes, skinned and chopped  
½ onion, chopped  
1 clove garlic, crushed  
½ teaspoon whole coriander seeds, crushed  
1 level teaspoon dried basil  
Oil  
Salt and pepper

#### **Method**

1. Melt a tablespoon of oil in a flameproof casserole, add the onion and garlic and soften them over a gentle heat for 5 minutes. Stir in chopped tomatoes and cook for a further 5 minutes.
2. Peel and cut marrow into 1 ½ inch chunks removing seeds.
3. Add to the tomatoes and onions together with the crushed coriander seeds.
4. Add dried basil and seasoning.
5. Stir round well, put in casserole with lid on and cook in the oven for 1 hour until marrow is tender, 325F / 170C.
6. About 15 minutes before the end of cooking time remove lid, or return to stove, and reduce liquid by simmering.
7. Serve.

This is a tasty dish to serve with a roast etc.

Joan Wright

### **How to Wash a Cat**

1. Put both lids of the toilet up and add 1/8 of pet shampoo to the water in the bowl...
  2. Pick up the cat and soothe him while you carry him towards the bathroom.
  3. In one smooth movement put the cat in the toilet and close the lid.
  4. At this point the cat will self agitate and make ample suds. Never mind the noises that come from the toilet, the cat is actually enjoying this!
  5. Flush the toilet three or four times. This provides a 'Power Wash' and 'Rinse'.
  6. Have someone open the front door of your home. Be sure that there are no people between the bathroom and the front door.
  7. Stand well back, behind the toilet as far as you can, and quickly lift the lid.
  8. The cat will rocket out of the toilet, streak through the bathroom, and run outside where he will dry himself off.
  9. Both the toilet and the cat will be sparkling clean.
- Yours Sincerely, The Dog



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## Personal Page

### *Congratulations to*

Clive Jeffree on his 80th birthday in April.

Tom Shepherd on his 80th birthday in May.

Isabel Johnson on her 90th birthday in May.

Norman Cornwall on his 80th birthday in August.

Hilary and Melvin Simpson of Homestead Road, on the birth of identical twin grandsons, Kyle and Lewis on September 30th. Their parents are Helen and Brad Rose.

Marie Pegram on her 90th birthday in October.

### *In Memory of*

Phyllis Bird who died in August. She lived for many years in Homestead Road, before moving to Wickford. She was a valued member of the Bowls Club, playing in the league team. More recently she joined the Horticultural Society. Our sympathies go to Derek and her family.

Daphne Clements who died in August. Before moving to the West Country, she lived in Orchard Avenue, and was secretary to the Horticultural Society, where her husband Terry was Chairman. Our sympathies go out to Terry.

*If you would like to put a personal message on this page contact the Editor.*

**PLEASE DON'T STRIDE THE FOOTPATHS,  
FOOTPATHS ARE FOR PEDESTRIANS**

## History of Ramsden Exhibition 2017

In 1989 the first 'History of Ramsden' Exhibition took place in my spare bedroom for the W.I. From there it grew to a day and a half event in the Village Hall (and twice at Ramsden Heath) with a Museum and computer services.

Last year I had to cancel owing to illness, and I decided to retire as old age had crept on! However as a result of a great deal of arm twisting, and with some trepidation, I have decided to attempt a lesser version. It will take place as usual in February, (see Village Events) in the following format. There will no Museum, and there will be less pictures actually on show. However everything will be available in files, books etc on two large viewing tables. The good news is that the refreshments, all homemade, will still be available.

A further point of interest is that those putting on this event, from putting out the tables and chairs to providing refreshments etc are almost entirely pensioners in their 80's and even one who is 90. They love this Village and are proud to present its history.

See you there!

Isabel Johnson



## Horticultural

How time flies in the garden, you go out for 15 minutes and come in 2 hours later!

In March we had a talk on garden photography, the speaker also gave advice to anyone who brought their camera along. Our daffodil mini show was also held then, Congratulations to the overall winner Mike Jollands. April was a busy time, we also held the tulip mini show, well done to the winner Phillipa, who was up against some very good entries! This was held with the seedling swap, we will try this again next year as it was popular! Our event for the village charity was a Beetle Drive, raising £500 and the intersociety quiz saw our team come 2nd only losing by half a point, as I said a very busy month.

In May there was a talk on herbs with lots of unusual herbs to try, some an acquired taste!

In June we held the Summer Show, it was well supported with lots of good entries, which made for an excellent display. The best in show certificate went to Mike Craig, well done to him. Also in June, a garden visit had been organised

to Furzelea in Danbury, unfortunately there was heavy rain in the morning so some members decided not to go (including me) but members who went thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon, where thankfully the weather cheered up!

July was the last meeting before the Summer break, so was not as well attended, it was an extremely entertaining talk with interesting slides by Brian Wickenden on the making of a garden.

Did you see the hanging baskets at the hall? They were planted and cared for by Ken Dobson who runs our trading hut. It is open Sunday mornings from March to October, thank-you Ken.

Our meetings are held on the third Monday of the month at 8pm, looking forward to seeing new and present members at the meetings.

Marion Shillum



## Dog Training

Firstly, a very warm welcome back to Rita our Secretary who has been very, very ill this year. We all wish you good health for the future Rita.

Our show season is nearly over and many of our Members have done well this year, especially Fiona and Ludo who have won two Novices, good luck in "A" next year. Also Pat and Maddie who have done well in "C". Congratulations and good luck for next year to all our members who compete.



Our show on the 3rd. September went very well, all the judges liked the new venue and the weather was kind to us. A very big Thankyou to everyone who helped on the Friday and Saturday. It is hard work putting on a show but with a lot of help the load is eased. The show was a great success and we made over £300 for the hall charity 'Brainwave'. Well done and Thankyou.

I have bought a new dog this year, a rescue German Shepherd. She is only about 18 months old but she is very good and I am very pleased with her, her name is Elle.

Valerie Dean, Vice Chairman

## Fun Whist

As we start into, what promises to be, a lovely Autumn, the news for the Whist supporters is not good! The monthly, Saturday Whist was started many years ago, when card playing was enjoyed by the majority and the convenience of a pleasant evening meeting neighbours and friends over a game of whist in the Village Hall was something to look forward to. Young and old could join in as, although it can be a highly tactical game at one level, it is easy for everyone to get to grips with and enjoy.

Our numbers have fluctuated greatly over the last few years but have certainly dropped drastically over the recent past. Roy has manfully turned up, put out tables and chairs for us, arranged the raffle and sorted refreshments. However, the ensuing support has been at times pitiful. Does this imply that people don't play cards any more, don't wish to turn out on a Saturday or are just not interested! In view of the situation, Roy has decided that he is happy to continue running the Whist sessions for one more year and if support does not improve then the shutters will be pulled down!

Can I just remind everyone in the Village that we have Whist on the second Saturday of the month, starting at 7.15 in the old Hall. Should support increase vastly, then it could be moved to the New hall. Wouldn't that be nice to maintain an activity run for the Bellhouse residents, by the Bellhouse residents! Dates of the sessions can always be checked on the events diary on the Village website.

Angela Hodivala



## Bowls Club

At the time of writing we still have a few friendly matches to lay, these have been very popular with members quickly putting their names down to play. Shortly we will be starting the league season and wish our 3 teams the best of luck in their respective divisions.

We had a very successful Charity tea preceded by the ever popular fun bowls proceeds to the Brainwave Charity, choice of the Village Hall this year. Our next social event is the Christmas Lunch in December which will again be followed by fun bowls.

Sad to report the death of our very popular member Phyllis Bird, our thoughts are with Derek, Carol, Tom and rest of the family. We have also



had the, hopefully temporarily, retirement of Hazel & Gladys due to ill health. We look forward to them being able to rejoin us soon.

On a happier note we have continued to celebrate many birthdays with cakes and special ones with a presentation, among those was Isabel's 90th in May. Our Chairman Norman, in his final year of as chairman, celebrated his 80th.

Thanks to Roy for organising our tournaments last April & May. The pairs was won by Kay and Peter Debenham in a very close final they defeated Emily Poulter and Tom Shepard. Peter also won the singles again defeating Tom Shepard.

We continue to have our friendly roll-up sessions each Monday night, Wednesday morning and Friday afternoon, always with a break for tea/coffee and biscuits. If you fancy trying it please contact our Secretary, Hilary on 01268 711118.

Kay Debenham



### Teddies for Tragedies Essex Branch

Through the summer months teddies have gone to Kosovo, Lesbos and Zambia together with jumpers, cardigans, hats etc. and of course the toiletry boxes. We are now concentrating on knitted and crocheted blankets which are urgently needed in many countries. There are many sacks full of blankets ready to go to Kosovo in October and my thanks must go to Isabel and the 'Teddy Baggers' for sewing together the knitted squares that come in. If anyone feels like knitting a few squares during the dark evenings throughout the winter please contact me on 01268 710757.



We are now preparing our Christmas Shoeboxes with gifts for children and adults who, but for the shoeboxes, would not have anything at Christmas.

Wishing you a wonderful Christmas and a very happy New Year. God bless.

Audrey Pegrum MBE, Essex Branch Organiser

### Joan Kelly

On Sunday 9th October, a plaque was unveiled by Clive Jeffree in the Village Hall entrance hall, to Joan Kelly who died earlier this year. About thirty people attended the ceremony, in which was followed by tea, coffee and cake.

Joan worked tirelessly for the Village, and more especially for the Village Hall. She was responsible for the Art Show, the Singing Day, organising the Christmas Bazaar and the Summer Fete.

When not doing the organising, she could be found running the raffle or on the door. At one time she was editor of this magazine. WI, Horticultural, History of Ramsden, Medau and Bowls, Teddies for Tragedies, Fun Whist and the Management Committee all benefitted from her membership. Best of all, she enjoyed every minute of it.



### Emblem Group

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25<sup>th</sup> Sept Many villagers found bullet in front-  
door. 13th people wounded & 4<sup>th</sup> m.  
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to procure food, and blankets from Wickford,  
Wickson, and Ples.  
Teachers and helpers prepare a breakfast  
of condensed milk, bread, jam, and  
tea. Dinner served to 57 people  
at one o'clock consisted of a hot stew,  
break and jam. Tea followed.  
30 people slept in school. Blankets, covers  
and school furniture on the wall.  
26<sup>th</sup> Sept Breakfast, dinner, tea served in school.  
Relieving Officer found village for all three  
days. 2 dead male. slept in school  
on 26<sup>th</sup> evening, to answer all enquiries  
re disposal of population, letters, etc.  
27<sup>th</sup> Sept. Inhabitant used lanterns, and on  
decision for next and reading facilities  
28<sup>th</sup> Sept. Mine still unexploded. H.T. still in  
building. Police advance danger, no school  
1<sup>st</sup> Oct. Unexploded mine still in village.

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## Bus Timetable

*Timetables for Service No 10 Monday to Friday*

### Basildon to Shotgate

Notes	ECC	ECC	ECC	ECC	ECC	ECC
Basildon Hospital Main Entrance (A)	0836	1036	1236	1436	1636	1810
Basildon, Bus Station (M) Arr	0841	1041	1241	1441	1641	1815
Basildon, Bus Station (M) Dep	0843	1043	1243	1443	1643	1817
Miles Gray Road, Opposite B&Q	0848	1048	1248	1448	1648	1822
Noak Bridge, South Wash Road	0851	1051	1251	1451	1651	1825
Crays Hill, Shepherd & Dog	0856	1056	1256	1456	1646	1831
Ramsden Bellhouse, Glebe Rd	0901	1101	1301	1501	1701	1836
Ramsden Heath, White Horse	0906	1106	1306	1506	1707	1841
Brock Hill, Downham Road	0914	1114	1314	1514	1715	1849
Wickford Broadway, The Swans	0918	1118	1318	1518	1720	1854
Westfield Close	0926	1126	1326	1326	----	----
Beauchamps School	0928	1128	1328	1528	----	----
Shotgate, Post Office	0931	1131	1331	1531	----	----
Hodgson Way	0933	1133	1333	1533	----	----

### Shotgate to Basildon

Notes	ECC	ECC	ECC	ECC	ECC	ECC
Hodgson Way	----	0936	1136	1336	1536	----
Shotgate, Post Office	----	0938	1138	1338	1538	----
Westfield Close	----	0939	1139	1339	1539	----
Beauchamps School	----	0941	1141	1341	1541	----
Wickford Broadway, The Swans	0750	0949	1149	1349	1549	1722
Brock Hill, Downham Road	0754	0953	1153	1353	1553	1727
Ramsden Heath, White Horse	0802	1001	1201	1401	1601	1735
Ramsden Bellhouse, Glebe Rd	0806	1005	1205	1405	1605	1739
Crays Hill, Shepherd & Dog	0811	1010	1210	1410	1610	1745
Noak Bridge, South Wash Road	0816	1015	1215	1415	1615	1750
Miles Gray Road, Opposite B&Q	0819	1018	1218	1418	1618	1753
Basildon, Bus Station (F) Arr	0824	1023	1223	1423	1623	1758
Basildon, Bus Station (F) Dep	0826	1025	1225	1425	1625	1800
Basildon Hospital Main Entrance	0831	1030	1230	1430	1630	1805

Just too late for inclusion in the last edition of the magazine there was a major change to the bus service through the Village. The previous NIBS Service 237 was replaced by Service 10 operated by First Bus. This new service actually provides one more journey each way, at two hourly intervals, eliminating the former 3 hour gap in the afternoons. All buses are now extended to Basildon Hospital, and from Wickford the route now runs to Shotgate, not South Woodham Ferrers. The timetable printed in this edition is the Monday to Friday Service. On Saturdays the journeys are basically the same, but some timings are anything upto 12 minutes **earlier** than on Weekdays

## Village Events

### NOVEMBER

Friday 11th	Beetle Drive	7.30pm	Village Hall
Saturday 12th	Fun Whist	7.15pm	Village Hall
Saturday 12th	Quiz Night	7.15pm	Baptist Church
Sunday 13th	Remembrance Service	10.45am	Village Hall

### DECEMBER

Saturday 3rd	Christmas Bazaar	Midday	Village Hall
Saturday 10th	Fun Whist	7.15pm	Village Hall
Sunday 11th	Toys and Tins Service	10.30am	Baptist Church
Thursday 15th	Carol Service	7.30pm	St Mary's Church
Saturday 17th	Crunch	9am - midday	Village Hall
Sunday 18th	Carols by Candlelight	4pm	Baptist Church
Sunday 25th	Christmas Day Service	10.30am	Baptist Church

### JANUARY 2017

Saturday 14th	Fun Whist	7.15pm	Village Hall
Sunday 29th	Village Hall AGM	3.00pm	Village Hall

### FEBRUARY

Saturday 11th	Fun Whist	7.15pm	Village Hall
Saturday 25th	History of Ramsden	2.00-5.00pm	Village Hall
Sunday 26th	History of Ramsden	11.00am - 5.00pm	Village Hall

### MARCH

Friday 3rd	Women's World Day of Prayer	11am	Baptist Church
Saturday 25th	Crunch	9am - midday	Village Hall
Saturday 25th	"Les Miserables Evening"		Baptist Church

### April

Saturday 9th	Fun Whist	7.15pm	Village Hall
Sunday 23rd	St George's Breakfast	9am - midday	Village Hall

## Village Directory

<b>Village Hall</b>	Chairman	- Clive Jeffree	710559
	Booking Secretary	- Vivienne Fisher	07772 630513
			01268 531441
	Secretary	- Abby Short	01268 711675
	Treasurer	- Derek Swan	710478
<b>Magazine</b>	Social Secretary	- Ann Wellborne	710250
	Editor	- Isabel Johnson	710428
	Advertising	- Isabel Johnson	710428
<b>Badminton</b>	Fridays 8pm - 11pm	- Karen Pearce	01268 711227
<b>Dog Training</b>	Monday (except 3rd in month)		
	7.15pm - 10pm	- Rita Barber	01702 231189
<b>St Mary's Church</b>	Church Wardens	- Beryl Clements	01245 601298
<b>Horticultural</b>	3rd Monday in the month except July, August and December	- Rusi Hodivala	710619
<b>Ladies Medau</b>	Thursday 8pm	- Veronica Greenwood	01702 559914
<b>Cubs</b>	Wed 5.45pm - 7.15pm	- Lin Prince	01268 710143
<b>Scouts</b>	Wed 7.30pm - 9.30pm	- Chris Maker	01277 652337
<b>Baptist Church Bows</b>	except 2nd Wed in month		
	Val Rook		01277 632006
	Mon 7.30pm		
	Wed 10am		
<b>Dancing Club</b>	Fri 1.30pm	- Hilary Simpson	01268 711118
<b>Whist Drive</b>	Every Sunday 7.30pm - 10.30pm		
	General Dancing	- Barry Gardiner	07702 233898
<b>Line Dancing</b>	Roy Richards (see Village Events)		710669
<b>Bellhouse Preschool</b>	Every Monday 2.00pm - 3.00pm	Ken Dobson	710771
<b>Website</b>	Mon to Fri 9.30am	-	07881 448686
<b>Ramsden Parish Council</b>	www.ramsdenbellhouse.info		
	Sally Faulker (Email SFC@sally-faulker.co.uk)		01245 400628

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