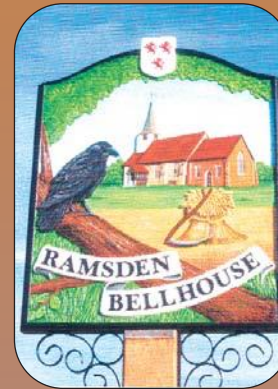




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Village Magazine Winter 2017



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A Word from the Editor

I write this in amazement. For the first time, in my years as Editor of this Magazine all my regular contributors have got their copy in BEFORE the required date!, and there was only small problems with advertising. This has made things not only easier for me, but so much more pleasurable and worth while. Thank-you. But there always has to be one - and it was ME. Totally unprepared for this total co-operation, I had not put pen to paper. So now I must get a move on.

Continuing in my mood of praise and thanks I would like to both praise and thank all those generous people in Ramsden Bellhouse and surrounding areas, who have sponsored me on my family walk for Alzheimer's (I've learnt how to spell it!) Research, 'Memory Walk' and particularly those who took sponsor forms.

By the time you read this, four generations of my family who walked, will have paid in more than £2000 for Alzheimer's Research. This covers Dementia in all its tragic forms as well. I walked with my daughter, grandson his wife and three great grand children, the 1.5 kilometres which is about my limit at 91.

I could tell you many heart warming and heart rending stories regarding those who sponsored me and their relatives and friends suffering in this way. For them I tied a list of their names on the Memory Tree and said a prayer for them and their Carers.

This years Village Charity is for Dementia Unit Basildon Hospital. If anyone would like to donate or raise money for this cause, contact me or anyone on the Village Hall Committee.

No grumbles or moans this time! just gratitude for your understanding and generosity.

Thanks also 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.

Isabel Johnson

Advertising Rates

Coloured Half pages - limited	£33.00
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Chairmans Report

This is my sixteenth year as chairman of the village hall, how time has flown. Looking back it appears so long ago and yet on the other hand it seems only yesterday that I took on the job for the second time. During this time some members of the committee have retired and new members have joined but essentially the committee has remained the same. Meanwhile my personal life has had its ups and downs, most of which I have enjoyed but some I definitely did not. I know that, as with us all the clock is always ticking. But when we are young it does not matter as time runs slow. The trouble is that as we get older time gets faster, at my age it speeds by. Sooner or later I know that I will have to give up.

The latest change in the management committee is the addition of Audrey Pegrum M.B.E. Who has agreed to take over the job of Booking Secretary as Vivienne Fisher has had to retire for health reasons, I wish to thank Vivienne for all the work for the hall she has done and to wish her and Ken all the best of luck for the future.

The events run by the committee since the last Mag. St Georges Breakfast and the Music Festival. Were both very successful, all profit went to help run the hall and to keep the rents low. I must thank all those who helped to run and organise these events. Our next event is the Bazaar on Saturday Dec 2nd please come and support this event..

I ask you all where possible support our charity events this year, as it is worth while for Basildon Dementia Team

Lastly a happy Christmas and coming new Year to you all.

C Jeffree Chairman RBVH
chairman@ramsdensbellhouse.info



*St George's
Breakfast*

St Georges's Day Breakfast April 2017

We had a good turnout again this year despite the Marathon being on. We opened promptly at 9.00 am. and already people were queuing. They weren't disappointed, a good full English breakfast was served by the attentive waiters, 2 sausages, 2 bacon, egg, baked beans, tomatoes, mushrooms, orange juice, toast, jam marmalade, tea and coffee. The hall very quickly filled up and the cooks were kept busy keeping up with demand. There was a lovely buzz in the hall with neighbours and friends meeting up over breakfast. We served 180 people in three hours and made £856.90 profit for the Village Hall which goes towards the upkeep of the two halls. A big thank you to Jen and Mick Khoter who ran a raffle for us this year which boosted our profit. We all enjoy putting the event on although it entails a lot of organising and setting up so once again if anyone would like to get involved your help would be greatly appreciated. Just get in touch. See you next year.

Ann Wellborne

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Ramsden Bellhouse Music Festival 2017

For the third year running everyone had a good time at the 2017 Music Festival, and we were asked many times during the evening, 'will you be doing it again next year?' The weather was kind to us and unlike last year the ground was dry and firm. The gates opened at 2.30 pm. and people arrived early to take their places either on the grass with their seats, picnics and drinks or under the marquees. The event officially kicked off at 4 pm. with the group Tumblewood who gave a lively performance of folk and country music. They were followed by the gorgeous solo soul singer Charlotte Inglis who wowed the audience with her lovely voice. Next came the Rod Stewart tribute act with Greg. Dorrelly who mingled amongst the dancers enjoying and joining in with his rendition of music made popular by Rod. The last act to appear by late evening was The Baby Devilles, a fantastic Funky Soul finale with a powerful lady solo singer Verna Francis accompanied by a saxophone player and together they had the audience on their feet dancing and singing until late in the night. All acts were linked together by the dj Seany B. with a laser show at the end. The ticket included a barbecue with trimmings with a vegetarian option. From the feedback we have received the Music Festival proved to be a great success so here's to next year!

A profit of approximately £2,000. was made for the Village Hall and the Dementia Team from Basildon Hospital the chosen Charity voted for at the A.G.M raised £250.00.

A great deal of hard work went into organising the event, Abby organising the acts, Chris her husband and son Joe creating the stage and Abby and myself selling tickets. We had lots of help from the Management Committee Members especially Clive the Chairman, members of sections and friends and family, so a big thank you to all those who helped. If anyone would like to get involved next year or with any other event taking place at the Village Hall please get in touch.

Ann Wellborne, Social Secretary, Ramsden Bellhouse Village Hall.
01268 710250 annwellborne@btopenworld.com

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR 2nd DECEMBER 2017

Please come and support us.

Fun Whist

As I was beginning to think about the write-up for the autumn issue of the magazine, we received the sad news that Derek Jackson had died. Derek started the Fun Whist evening some years ago and it proved a great success. He was a lovely, kind, gregarious man who was always prepared to involve himself in any Village works or activities. Badminton, bowls, table tennis, cycling for charity and a huge passion for playing cards! He was also very musical and in his fitter times a talented artist. He ran the monthly Fun Whist evenings for many years until his health deteriorated to the point where he was unable to continue and Roy took over. A lovely man who will be remembered by some playing cards on upturned suitcases at a crammed coach hub as a group of us waited for our delayed transport on a group holiday!

Fun Whist continues, in the Village Hall, on the second Saturday of the month at 7.15pm.

Angela Hodivala

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Parish Council

Local Plan

Currently at the time of going to press, whilst it was anticipated from meetings with Basildon Council earlier in the year that decisions would of been made by now, the latest information received by the Parish Council now indicates that a plan will not be completed until the end of 2017 and or it may even roll over into 2018.

Given the work carried out over the last two years by the Parish Council and the various resident groups, the news of the current status is extremely disappointing. However any news or updates relating to the Local Plan will be communicated/cascaded as soon as further information is received from Basildon Council, these will be posted on the RBPC Notice Board (opposite the village shop) and website.

Broadband

As indicated in the last issue of this magazine, Superfast Essex has been updating the Parish Council and those residents who have registered their details on line at <http://www.superfastessex.org/> as to the current status.

As we have all observed over the last 3 years, as each of the different stages of the Superfast Essex fibre broadband plan has been rolled out Ramsden Bellhouse has not been included and there were no plans to increase the speed above 2mb.

Further to the most recent Superfast Essex meeting organised for Parish Councils, we requested that a representative attend a meeting with RBPC in order to obtain a definitive indication of what is planned for the village moving forward.

Ian Frost Contracts Manager representing Superfast Essex attended the meeting on the 19th September to advise councillors of the current/planned status. Thanks to the efforts RBPC and all the residents that took the time to contact Superfast Essex, he advised that Ramsden Bellhouse has now been included in the next stage of the fibre plan which will be in place towards the end of 2018.

The cabinet to be installed will be fibre enabled by BT. anyone connected to the cabinet will then be able to order a superfast service from an ISP of their choice. Speeds are likely to vary depending on how close residents are to the cabinet, the closest will get around 80mb, those half a mile away should get around 50mb. As we currently only receive between 2 and 5mb it is probably an understatement to advise that this



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will be a significant improvement.

Whilst it is still up to 12 months away in terms of timescales, in order to keep yourselves updated, Superfast Essex have suggested residents check if they have been connected to the Cabinet (1) by entering either their phone number or address on the BT Wholesale DSL Checker at the following address:

https://www.btwholesale.com/includes/adsl/adsl.htm?s_cid=ws_furls_adslchecker

As we were informed that BT are under budget and ahead of schedule in a number of areas, by also visiting Superfast Essex website it will hopefully also provide you with further information as to the progress being made.

Finally you may also be contacted by your ISP once they are informed by Superfast Essex/BT in order that you can upgrade to the service and speed you require.

As County Broadband have also indicated to Superfast Essex and RBPC that they wish to provide a service to the village, as and when they provide details to RBPC these will be communicated, in order residents can make a decision based on their requirements and their preferred options.

Richard Wellborne
Chairman Ramsden Bellhouse Parish Council



Line Dancing

Our line dancing ladies celebrated 20 years of teaching the class at the Village Hall in August. A party was held during the lesson with lots of food and drink and a lively time was had by all. Come rain or shine the girls arrive every Monday afternoon 2.30 pm. (except bank holidays) with their play lists and cds and put us through our paces to a wide range of music. We all look forward to meeting up each week as quite a few of us have been attending the class for quite a few years. We still have room for anyone who would like to join us you will be most welcome, just come down any Monday afternoon to join in or just sit and watch, so if you have an hour to spare why not give it a try.

Ann Wellborne

Winter's Calendar

During the dark days of winter, it's tempting to stay in a warm house and shut out a grey, cold countryside. After all, is there anything to love about the natural world in winter when it seems so lifeless and empty? As a child I remember learning Thomas Hood's poem about November (written 1844) with those lines;

'...no warmth, no cheerfulness, no healthful ease...

...no shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees, no fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds. November!'

The poem has a grim view of winter, but it would be a shame to share it. I always find that there's plenty to look for and enjoy at this time of year. A wander around the village, or even just around the garden, can reveal lots of small signs of life and interest and a few surprises, too. Here are my notes on what to look out for over winter:

November: In early November the beech trees look their most glorious with a haze of copper and gold leaves. Warm days can still bring out late butterflies; the nights bring out calling tawny owls. Great skeins of geese fly low to and from Hanningfield, and more song birds come to the garden feeders. The winter thrushes from Scandinavia; redwings and fieldfares, are calling from the trees. There are wonderful, fiery sunsets in the late afternoon.

December: The nights are longer and there is more time for stargazing. The bold robins come closer to the house. Overnight snow means mysterious tracks to look for in the morning; have foxes, badgers, rabbits, deer or even stoats visited the garden?

January: Now it's colder, and there aren't so many berries in the wild, the winter thrushes come down into the garden searching for new food sources such as fallen apples. They're joined by small flocks of starlings. Late January is time for the Big Garden Bird Watch where I count the birds visiting my feeders and bird table. As always, I'm surprised by how many I see. At night, a blue tit is roosting in the blue tit box that has a camera fitted. The little bird arrives at dusk and leaves just after dawn. Also in late January, I find the first flowering snowdrops.

February: A song thrush starts singing at dawn. Frogs and toads are on the move. As well as snowdrops, there are now crocuses in flower and

hazel catkins in the hedgerows. The honey bees are starting to bring in pollen to the hive, which means the queen has started to lay eggs again. I'm starting to look for the first signs of spring in the countryside.

March: A month of firsts. The first butterfly of the year; possibly a peacock or small tortoiseshell. The first migratory birds appear back here for the summer (usually singing chiffchaffs). The daffodils and other early spring flowers are in bloom. Queen bumblebees are about and the honey bees are busy. The dawn chorus has begun.

I enjoy the first, warm, spring day.

Wendy Swift



Bowls Club

The summer is a quieter time for bowls and we are now gearing up for our league matches which start in October. Rooks remain in Division 2 and the Ravens & Robins both promoted to Divisions 5 & 6 respectively.

Through the summer many of our members have taken part in friendly matches. It is good to see how quickly the lists get filled up. Short Mat Bowls is a very sociable game and some members have enjoyed taking part in other clubs all day inter club tournaments. It's always good to see friends from other clubs at these events. Some members have also enjoyed short mat bowling holidays, including Torquay, Gunton Hall & Potters. Again it is good to meet up with our friends from other clubs.

The club tournaments were held again this year, the singles in April when Tom Dines beat Rusi in the final. The doubles, postponed from May due to many members unable to make the date, was held in August and Kay & Peter managed their 3rd win in a row beating David & Sylvia in the final.

We continue to enjoy celebrating members birthdays, especially the cakes they bring in!! Special birthdays and anniversaries are celebrated with a presentation to the person celebrating.

It is sad to report that one of our long term past members, Derek Jackson, passed away at the start of September. Derek was not only a very active member of the bowls club, but also on the Village Hall Committee,



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helping at all events and often repairing things as necessary. Derek will be sadly missed and our thoughts are with his family at this time.

For a few weeks recently we have used the free Tuesday nights as a practice night. The jack and bowls have been placed in various positions so specific shots can be practiced, and as well as it being great practice it has also proved to be great fun and enjoyed by all those who have attended.

Thanks to Emily for all the hard work she has put into these nights.

Kay Debenham



Cubs Report

For a change I asked some of the Cubs to give their ideas about Cubs. Firstly I asked two 10½ year olds Oliver and Rose who will soon be going up to Scouts. They said it's different, they have fun and there is no electronics. I think they mean no mobile phones, tablets, i-pads, computers etc etc. They also said camping is fun, has to be done with free time in the woods one of the best bits. Also Rafting, Abseiling, Jousting, Orienteering, Hikes and Tracking.

Then I asked two of our newest 7½ year old Cubs who only started last term, Samuel and Finley. Their best bits were playing with homemade Frisbees for the Athletics badge and learning the leaders' names, meeting and making new friends.

We had a great summer camp in June at Downe Scout Activity Centre near Orpington. This was a family camp with both Cubs and parents joining in. The theme was the story of Robin Hood. Teams had to make and fire bows and arrows, take part in a jousting competition after decorating their horse and staff fighting over a narrow bridge with water either side. Navigate the assault course and eat their way through a medieval banquet and of course the necessary free time in the woods and Saturday night camp fire. We are now planning the next camp for this Autumn at Thriftwood Scout campsite at Brentwood.

This term we are starting back with 15 Cubs and hopefully 5 new ones will join us. We still 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

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700g floury potatoes

30g butter, softened

1 garlic clove, finely chopped

300ml single cream

3 tablespoons grated parmesan or mature cheddar

Slice the mushrooms. Peel the potatoes and slice thinly. Bring a large saucepan of water to the boil and add the potato slices. As soon as the water returns to the boil drain the potatoes and refresh under cold water. Drain again and spread out on kitchen paper or a clean tea towel.

Pre heat the oven to 180c/160c fan/gas 4. Grease a shallow dish (about 22 x26cm) with the butter and sprinkle the garlic over it. Arrange half the potatoes in the bottom of the dish and season with salt and pepper. Cover with the mushrooms and season generously again. Finish off with a final layer of overlapping potatoes.

Bring the cream almost to boiling point then pour over the potatoes. Sprinkle the cheese on top and bake for about 1 ½ hours. If it is browning too quickly cover loosely with foil. Cook until the gratin is crisp and golden brown and the cream is bubbling up around the edges.

Serves 6

This dish can be eaten on its own or used as a side dish.

Joan Wright



Teddies for Tragedies Essex Branch

During the summer some of my charity work had to be put on hold as I went into hospital to have knee replacement surgery. Only 360 teddies went out to Br. Titus in Zambia together with lots of bibles and hymn books that he had asked for. He still requires bibles, any version, so if you have a spare one please pass it on to me. Just before I went into hospital a huge quantity of shop blankets, knitted blankets and jumpers were collected from me destined for Kosovo for their harsh winter. The grand total of teddies now stands at 294062.



At the time of writing I am now walking with one crutch so it won't be too long before I start preparing our Christmas Shoeboxes with gifts and essential toiletries for children and adults, who, but for the shoeboxes, would not have anything at Christmas.

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

Audrey Pegrum MBE Essex Branch Organiser





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if a cat listened carefully

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"Have you heard?"

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"Pass the lemon curd"

Someone's hungry

"I am getting in the bath"

She's smelly

"Where's my scarf"

He's cold

"Gross bath"

The neighbour's kid

"Aghhhhhhhhhh, there's a rat"

Oh no

"Where's my baseball bat"

They are busy

"Ha ha ha, you're a funny fellow"

Sounds like laughter

"I want a marsh mellow"

She's eager

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Bygone Years

Robert Woodgate

In St. Marys Old Churchyard, as transcribed by The Essex Society for Family History in 1997, there were little more than a dozen graves, one of which is of particular interest today. It is described in their booklet as a 'pointed topped headstone' with the following inscription.

'Sacred / to the memory of / ROBERT WOODGATE / Captain in his Majesty's / 54 Regt Foot / died on the 10th day / of July 183(?) / aged (?) years /'

Underneath in italics: - *Parish register states: Buried July 15th 1835 aged 54 years.*

Following up this information in the baptism register we find he was baptised in St. Marys on June 8th 1781 'son of Robert & Ann Woodgate'.

Military records show the 54 Regt of Foot was involved in action at Waterloo, and searching the Medal Roll for this campaign clearly indicates Robert as a Lieutenant in Captain Pigot's Company.

The Waterloo Medal was not given for any specific action, it is a Campaign Medal awarded to all participants, the first such award in the British Army.

Frank Fisher



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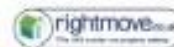


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Village Events throughout the year



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Helpers at the Strawberry Tea



St Mary's Flower Festival



St Mary's Flower Festival



Strawberry Tea



Music Festival



Joan serves cakes at the Horticultural Show



Autumn Show



Music Festival



Music Festival



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Lost

On the edge of the Downs stood a large house with very good views of the Kentish countryside. It was called 'Natures Home'. Linda and Tony had lived there for many years. They hadn't been lucky enough to have had children so instead had devoted their lives to looking after animals. Everybody locally got to know them and stray cats and dogs would be brought to their house. If any body had lost a pet the first place to call would be to see Linda and Tony.

The back garden had hutches for rabbits and guinea pigs and any other creature that needed a home. There was also an aviary for birds which had suffered any damage.

Every morning after feeding and mucking-out duties Tony would take his two dogs out for a walk across the Downs. Both the dogs had been brought to the house by owners who could no longer afford to look after them. Shep was a border collie and Chip was a smaller crossbreed terrier both got on very well together. Once onto the Downs the dogs were always let free to roam and explore, often chasing rabbits and the



Grahame Farley

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References Available

occasional hare. Tony would always start his walk by going to the edge of the Downs and walking alongside the railway. The line was the fast one to Dover and often you could see express trains full of holidaymakers heading for the coast. On the odd occasion you would see an excursion train hauled by a steam locomotive. This would be noisy and cause the birds to fly up into the trees.

One sunny morning, on the railway embankment Tony spotted a dead fox. It was a vixen in a shaggy condition and had obviously been struck by a train. This often happened and some times it would be a badger that had been hit.

The walk now took him away from the railway and up into a small woodland area. This is where Chip the terrier liked to chase the grey squirrels. They would rush up the tree trunks and look down at him from high branches. The bright colours of a Jay would be seen as it gave out a warning cry. A small herd of Fallow deer could often be seen eating grass in the clearing that led onto the farmers fields.

At this point the two dogs stopped their chasing and showed a lot of interest in a large clump of grass growing in the field margin. Tony went over and pulled apart the clump, there he found two very small fox cubs. They had been left by a vixen while she looked for a meal. The animals felt cold and he guessed that they had lost their mother; had she been killed by a train? Tony opened his shirt and cradled the small bundles against his chest, he would take them home. Linda would surely know how to rear these two latest additions to 'natures home'.

The little fox cubs were made comfortable in an old wicker basket which rested on a wooden rocking chair not far from the kitchen fire. Next day Tony rang the Wild Life Trust for advice. He was told to bottle feed them for the first few weeks and then feed them chicken and rabbit. What they should not do is to keep them longer then six months as the foxes would see Linda and Tony as their natural parents and would not return to the wild.

All went well and the young foxes were going into the garden and playing with Shep and Chip. Soon the day would come when they would be taken up onto the Downs and released back into the natural world. Linda and Tony would then have then lost their two latest friends happy with the knowledge that they had done another rewarding job.

Mike Craig

Suzy Writes . . .

At the time I'm writing this, it's mid September, already the weather has turned much colder, and the night's are drawing in - my Ordination is in a couple of weeks, and our 3 churches in the Benefice are preparing for our Harvest festivals.

By the time you read this, all that will be history, and we will be in November, a month when we remember significant events. November is a month where we look back - remembering those stalwarts of the Christian faith who have gone before us, as November 1st is All Saints day. It's also a time when we remember those who we have loved and lost at the annual Memorial and Thanksgiving service being held at St Margaret's church Downham - this year it will be held on November 5th at 3pm. That's also the day when we also remember Guy Fawkes attempt to blow up parliament - which thankfully failed, although it's more often referred to as Bonfire night, with fire works and loads of treacle toffee (well it was when I was young quite some time ago)! Later in the month is Remembrance Sunday a time to remember the terrible



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cost of the 2 world wars, and we express our gratitude for the freedom it bought at the terrible cost to so many; a time for remembering all those who have been maimed or killed in subsequent conflicts and the price they have also paid with their lives.

As the month closes and December gets underway our minds turn to Christmas, with all the shopping, celebrations and festivities that we have to get prepared for!

It's easy for all our festive activity to cause us to forget that Christmas is all about God's gift of his Son, born as a baby in a stable in Bethlehem, two thousand and seventeen years ago. Not just an ordinary baby - but one who some 33 years later gave his life for the sake of all humanity, to set us free from guilt and the consequences of humanities wrong doing whether it's unkind thoughts or words, oppression or conflicts large and small, and many other things as well! And so lest we forget what the Christmas season is really all about, I'll end with some words of a lesser known Christmas hymn by John L. Bell.

Who would think that what was needed to transform and save the earth
Might not be a plan or army, proud in purpose, proved in worth?
Who would think, despite derision, that a child should lead the way?

God surprises earth with heaven,
Coming here on Christmas Day.

Shepherds watch and wise men wonder, monarchs scorn and angels sing;
Such a place as none would reckon, hosts a holy helpless thing;
Stable beasts and by-passed strangers, watch a baby laid in hay:

God surprises earth with heaven
Coming here on Christmas Day.

Centuries of skill and science, span the past from which we move,
Yet experience questions whether, with such progress, we improve.
While the human lot we ponder, lest our hopes and humour fray,

God surprises earth with heaven
Coming here on Christmas Day.

Suzy Edmundson



Scouts Report

We continue to have a wide variety of activities each week, an important part of which is team building so team games such as footballcricket, newspaper hockey, volleyball and rounders form part of our programme.

We celebrated St Patrick's Day with hunt the Shamrock, tug of war and an Irish themed quiz; St George's Day with a cream tea and duelling dragons. The importance of the scout law and promise, along with a code of conduct being was discussed by the scouts and highlighted with a very interactive game. Dragons den was great fun with the scouts pitching their 'products'. Food activities are enjoyed, whether cooking over a camp fire, putting together a cream tea, making pancakes or peppermint creams and sending and decoding messages in Morse code made for a fun evening with lots of concentration!

Over a number of weeks balsa wood planes were made and then flown in the park. Water games featured one evening when it was all in with water pistols and a hose pipe!



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On the second Wednesday of the month we continue with an overnight away from the village hall. Again we have visited Thriftwood Scout Activity Centre for Campfire cooking and run outs and also went to Barleylands for an evening of canoeing where we invested a new scout on the water! Partyman World continues to be very popular where we joined with other scout troops from the district.

The summer term finished with a well-attended barbeque and rounders.

By the time of publication we will have camped at Riffhams near Danbury again. More about that next time.

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 10½ to 14½. New recruits are always welcome and for further information please call Chris on 01277 652337 or 07904 225200. Also please see our website: <http://www.1stramsdendownhamscouts.org.uk>

Chris Maker, Scout Leader



Dancing

Its another magazine article which means that Autumn is fast approaching. We held our Charity Square Dance in June this year this was well attended and we raised a reasonable amount for the Charity (Diary note. Our Charity Square Dance for 2018 will be held at the Village Hall on the 19th May 2018, more info later)

We had our summer ball on the 3rd September with a meal out and dancing afterwards. This also enabled us to celebrate 3 wedding anniversaries that occurred on 3rd/4th September plus two birthdays. Congratulations to them all.

We are looking forward to Halloween dance and then, help, its almost Christmas.

Barry Gardiner

PLEASE KEEP OUR VILLAGE TIDY

Talk and Walk and Thanks

We went to BBC Essex,
My daughter Anne and me.
To talk upon the Radio,
And famous we would be.

Outside the building looked the same,
I'd been before you see,
But inside was different,
New territory for me.

But this I have to tell you,
One thing was just the same.
Such friendliness and atmosphere,
Was like when last I came.

We felt immediately at home,
We felt we were worth while.
We did our chat on Alzheimer's,
And the 'Walk' which is a mile.

At home I waited patiently,
My fans would ring you see.
But sad to say, that up to date,
My fan club's only three.

I'd like to have been famous,
But I'm not the only one its for.
So thank you all who've sponsored
Two thousand pounds and more.

I hope we've raised awareness,
Of this tragic awful thing.
And the generous sponsor money
Will help a cure to bring.

Isabel Johnson



NB

3000 people walked at Hylands Park on September 17th. I was honoured to be chosen to cut the starting tape, and at 91 years, walked the mile.

St Mary's Church

Rector: Rev. Stephen Robertson, The Rectory, Castledon Road, Downham, 01268 710370. Contact him with requests for Baptisms, Marriages, and Funerals etc.

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 Summer

2nd Sunday: Holy Communion 9.30am.

3rd Sunday: Holy Communion 6.30pm Summer

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 services 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 with tea/coffee and biscuits afterwards.

We continue to have fellowship with our friends at the Baptist Church and our Walk of Witness from their Church to St. Mary's on Palm Sunday followed by Holy Communion was well attended. Our next joint service will be the Remembrance Sunday Service in the Village Hall on 12th November at 10.45am with the Cubs and Scouts in attendance. Members of both churches - men and women - meet every Monday (except Bank Holidays and school holidays) at the Baptist Church Hall anytime 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.

Our next project for work on St. Mary's will be the decorating of the inside of the church.

Our fund raising events during the summer went very well. First of all we had the choir from The Most Holy Redeemer Church, Billericay. They sang a mixed programme beautifully to a packed audience and

raised £865 towards the church repair funds. This was followed by the Strawberry Cream Tea held in the Village Hall. Again this was well supported and raised £610 and then, of course we had our main fund raiser the Flower Festival over the August Bank Holiday weekend. We were blessed with really fine weather over the whole weekend. On Saturday at 5.00pm the Sid Bolan Big Band Concert held in the Church grounds was excellent. People brought their own picnics and many compliments were made on the entertainment provided by the Band and the Vocalist. The concert raised £900 and I am pleased to say they are booked again for the same time next year. Please put a note in your new diaries! We had a good number of people to view the floral displays, enjoy the refreshments and patronise the stalls, but unfortunately not many people came on the Bank Holiday Monday. However, the weekend raised £2956 plus the money raised at the concert which gave an excellent final figure of £3856. We are very thankful for the efforts of people living outside the Village in the running of this event. If you like flower arranging please contact Beryl on 01245 601298 as we could do with some help for next year. Your choice of flowers will be supplied. Our heartfelt thanks go to this year's Flower Arrangers, Marquee erectors, stall holders etc. and, of course, to Beryl, our Churchwarden who worked like a trojan before, during and after the event.

Our next event will be a Ceilidh (Barn Dance) on 28th October which, no doubt will be over by the time you read this, and on Friday 10th November at 7.30pm at the Village Hall there will be a Beetle Drive being St. Mary's contribution to the Village Charity. Tickets £5 including refreshments available from Audrey on 01268 710757 or Beryl on 01245 601298.

Please note that from when the clocks go back our evening services are held at 3.00 pm during the winter months.

Audrey Pegrum MBE



Personal Page

Congratulations to

Luke McGuire and Kelly on their marriage on 23rd June at St. Mary's Church Ransden Bellhouse.

Rev. Stephen Robertson and Fiona Harby on their marriage on July 1st at St. Margaret's Church, Downham.

Pippa Sparke on her graduation from Southampton University with a degree in 'Music with Politics'.

Kish and friends, Beryl and Ray, Isabel and Family on their respective Charity Walks and Rides for Haven's Hospice, Essex Churches, and Alzheimer's Research respectively.

Barbara and Brian Stanton on their Golden Wedding in September.

Suzy Edmundson on her ordination as Deacon at Chelmsford Cathedral on September 30th.

In Memory of:

Rita Barber who died on Easter Sunday. She was a long standing member and secretary of the Dog Training Section where she is much missed. Our sympathies go out to her family.

Derek Jackson who died in September. He was loved by all in the many Hall Sections, he belonged to, and worked hard for. He leaves a big hole in Village Hall Life. Our sympathies go out to his family.

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



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Your Baptist Church in the Village

We are now well and truly into autumn with its chilly mornings and evenings and windy days, which makes us think of Harvest Festivals and autumn produce. Our Harvest Festival this year was on 8th October at 10.30, with the produce from this service going as usual to St Luke's Hospice in Basildon.

Christmas is going to be here before we know it, and we at RBBC are holding our usual "Toys and Tins" service on 10th December at 10.30 a.m. the donated food stuffs i.e. tins and dried foods together with toiletries and new toys will be given to The Basildon Resource Centre who will distribute these to needy families and the homeless. On the 17th December at 16.30 we are celebrating Christmas with our annual "Carols by Candlelight" service, followed by light refreshments. We would love to see as many people as possible from the village at the Christmas services.

Our Monday Morning Coffee Break which is held between 10.30 and 12.00, on as the title suggests, each Monday morning and serves tea, coffee, toast and often cakes continues. Our other regular is the Drop in Breakfast, held on the first Saturday of the month, this is continuing to prove very popular, and we serve a full English breakfast or any permutation, between 9.00 and 11.00 am for a donation of £3.00. These two regular morning "Drop-ins" offer the opportunity for food and chat. All are invited to come and try these, and you will be guaranteed a warm welcome.

Please feel free to read more about RBBC in our church magazine, produced quarterly and which is available free in the village shops in Ramsden Bellhouse and Crays Hill or at RBBC.

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

Val Rook,
Church Secretary

Happy Christmas to all
our Readers

Barbara & Tom Day

I had some lovely cousins came
To visit me today,
The day it went quite swimmingly
I really have to say.

The conversation flowed like wine
Which I thought was really cool,
But it wasn't about the weather
Or the friends we met at school.

The dinner it went down all right
Least it didn't leave them grumpy,
In fact we even cleared our plates
Though the gravy turned out lumpy.

We didn't run the country down
Claim we're governed by some jerks,
No ! we talked of more important things
Like our blasted 'WATER WORKS'.

Vicky Chuffer



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Horticultural

I hope you all enjoyed time in your gardens over the Summer break. Back in March we had our Mini Spring Show, we had so many entries we needed more tables! Well done all members who entered. The talk after "How Plants Move" described exactly that, by seed, runner, wind carried etc, an interesting talk! The afternoon tea at the beginning of April was a great



success, we thank the committee and helpers for an excellent afternoon. Also in April was the tulip mini show where several new members won prizes, the talk was on hanging baskets and containers, the speaker had some good tips for us. In May "Vertiginous Gardening" a strange title all about how much space we ignore on walls and fences, with good slides, he said we should all plant at least one tree for the future. The Summer show in June, the first open show under our new show secretary Thomas, went really well the setting up and packing away went without a hitch and the judge was impressed with the entries. The best in show certificate went to Tony Rogers for his lemons, well done Tony. July hints on exhibiting home crafts by our own President and long standing member Joan Wright, she made the evening very informative, explaining things



to do and what not to do for best showing with home cooking hints thrown in, thank-you Joan. Also in July Angela and Rusi once again opened their garden for us, a lovely sunny day and over 250 people went, a lot of cream teas to serve! Our thanks to Angela, Rusi and all their helpers.

You are welcome to join us, our meetings are held on the third Monday of the month at 8pm. The

hut is open before meetings for members from 7pm to 7.45pm. It will be closed on Sunday's from October until March.

Marion Shillum

Dog Training

It was with great sadness that we lost our Secretary Rita Barber on Easter Sunday, Rita had been Secretary for many, many years and did a huge amount of work for this club. She is greatly missed and our thoughts go to her Husband and daughter.



Our committee member Fiona was voted in as secretary at our A.G.M. In May and is doing a grand job. Thankyou Fiona.

Some of our members have done very well at shows this year especially Debbie who has won 2 novice classes with Asti and Pat with Maddie and Heather with Seb working 'C', who have been placed many times at shows, well done everyone.

Our own obedience show was a great success on 5th August, the weather was kind to us and everyone liked the new venue at Battlesbridge even all the judges who said they would be happy to judge for us again next year. Thankyou to everyone who helped at the Show, it is a huge undertaking but with many helpers it makes the job a little easier. A special Thankyou must go to Sandy, Fiona and Ian who did all the heavy work!

Unfortunately, on the 2nd. August we lost another member - John Enright who had been unwell for some time, our thoughts go to his Wife Julie @ son Martin.

Our show season is nearly over, but we will work throughout the winter to try and perfect our obedience for next year's shows.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone.

Valerie Dean,
Vice Chairman

Editors Note

**Please let me have more input
from the younger generation.**

Bus Timetable

Timetables for Service No 10 Monday to Friday & Saturday

Monday to Friday

Valid from: 03/09/2017 to: 23/12/2017

Basildon to Shotgate

Service No.:	10	10	10	10	10	10
Notes:	ECC	ECC	ECC	ECC	ECC	ECC
Basildon Hos, Main Ent(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, opp 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	1657	1831
Ramsden Bellhouse, Glebe Road	0901	1101	1301	1501	1702	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	1526	—	—
Beauchamps School	0928	1128	1328	1528	—	—
Shotgate, Post Office	0931	1131	1331	1531	—	—
Hodgson Way	0933	1133	1333	1533	—	—

Shotgate to Basildon

Service No.:	10	10	10	10	10	10
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 Road	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, opp 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 Hosp, Main Entrance	0831	1030	1230	1430	1630	1805

Notes: ECC Operated under Contract to Essex County Council

Saturdays

Valid from: 03/09/2017 to: 23/12/2017

Basildon to Shotgate

Service No.:	10	10	10	10	10	10
Notes:	ECC	ECC	ECC	ECC	ECC	ECC
Basildon Hos, Main Ent(A)	0834	1034	1234	1434	1634	1804
Basildon, Bus Station (M)	0839	1039	1239	1439	1639	1809
Miles Gray Road, opp B&Q	0844	1044	1244	1444	1644	1814
Noak Bridge, South Wash Road	0847	1047	1247	1447	1647	1817
Crays Hill, Shepherd & Dog	0852	1052	1252	1452	1652	1822
Ramsden Bellhouse, Glebe Road	0857	1057	1257	1457	1657	1827
Ramsden Heath, White Horse	0902	1102	1302	1502	1702	1832
Brock Hill, Downham Road	0910	1110	1310	1510	1710	1840
Wickford B'way, The Swans arr	0914	1114	1314	1514	1714	1844
Wickford B'way, The Swans dep	0915	1115	1315	1515	—	—
Westfield Close	0923	1123	1323	1523	—	—
Beauchamps School	0925	1125	1325	1525	—	—
Shotgate, Post Office	0929	1129	1329	1529	—	—
Hodgson Way	0930	1130	1330	1530	—	—

Shotgate to Basildon

Service No.:	10	10	10	10	10	10
Notes:	ECC	ECC	ECC	ECC	ECC	ECC
Hodgson Way	—	0936	1136	1336	1536	—
Shotgate, Post Office	—	0938	1138	1338	1538	—
Westfield Close	—	0943	1143	1343	1543	—
Beauchamps School	—	0945	1145	1345	1545	—
Wickford B'way, The Swans arr	—	0949	1149	1349	1549	—
Wickford B'way, The Swans dep	0750	0950	1150	1350	1550	1720
Brock Hill, Downham Road	0754	0954	1154	1354	1554	1724
Ramsden Heath, White Horse	0802	1002	1202	1402	1602	1732
Ramsden Bellhouse, Glebe Road	0806	1006	1206	1406	1606	1736
Crays Hill, Shepherd & Dog	0811	1011	1211	1411	1611	1741
Noak Bridge, South Wash Road	0816	1016	1216	1416	1616	1746
Miles Gray Road, opp B&Q	0819	1019	1219	1419	1619	1749
Basildon, Bus Station (F)	0824	1024	1224	1424	1624	1754
Basildon Hosp, Main Entrance	0829	1029	1229	1429	1629	1759

Notes: ECC Operated under Contract to Essex County Council

Village Events

NOVEMBER

Saturday 4th	Crunch	9am - midday	Village Hall
Friday 10th	Beetle Drive (Contact Audrey 710757)	7pm	Village Hall
Saturday 11th	Fun Whist	7.15pm	Village Hall
Sunday 12th	Remembrance Service	10.45am	Village Hall

DECEMBER

Saturday 2nd	Christmas Bazaar	Midday	Village Hall
Saturday 9th	Fun Whist	7.15pm	Village Hall
Sunday 10th	Toys and Tins Service	10.30am	Baptist Church
Thursday 14th	Carol Service	7.30pm	St. Mary's Church
Sunday 17th	Carols by Candlelight	4.00pm	Baptist Church

JANUARY 2018

Saturday 13th	Fun Whist	7.15pm	Village Hall
Sunday 28th	Village Hall AGM	3.00pm	Village Hall

FEBRUARY

Saturday 10th	Fun Whist	7.15pm	Village Hall
Saturday 24th	Crunch	9am - Midday	Village Hall
Saturday 24th	History of Ramsden	2.00pm - 5.00pm	Village Hall
Sunday 25th	History of Ramsden	11.00am - 5.00pm	Village Hall

MARCH

Friday 2nd	Women's World of Prayer	11.00am	Baptist Church
Saturday 10th	Fun Whist	7.15pm	Village Hall

APRIL

Saturday 14th	Fun Whist	7.15pm	Village Hall
Sunday 22nd	St George's Breakfast	9am - Midday	Village Hall

MAY

Saturday 12th	Fun Whist	7.15pm	Village Hall
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Village Directory

Village Hall	Chairman	- Clive Jeffree	710559
	Booking Secretary	- Audrey Pegrum	01268 710757
	Secretary	- Abby Short	01268 711675
	Treasurer	- Derek Swan	710478
	Social Secretary	- Ann Wellborne	710250
Magazine	Editor	- Isabel Johnson	710428
	Advertising	- Isabel Johnson	710428
Badminton	Wed 8pm - 10pm	- Karen	07884 233242
Dog Training	Monday (except 3rd in month)		
	7.15pm - 10pm	-	
St Mary's Church	Church Warden	- Beryl Clements	01245 601298
Horticultural	3rd Monday in the month except July, August and December		- Rusi Hodivala 710619
Ladies Medau	Thursday 8pm	- Veronica Greenwood	01702 559914
Cubs	Wed 5.45pm - 7.15pm	- Lin Prince	01268 710143
Scouts	Wed 7.30pm - 9.30pm - Chris Maker except 2nd Wed in month		01277 652337
Baptist Church	Val Rook		01277 632006
Bowls	Mon 7.30pm, Tues 7.30pm, Wed 10am		
	Fri 1.30pm	- Hilary Simpson	01268 711118
Dancing Club	Every Sunday 7.45pm - 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
Bellhouse Preschool	Mon to Fri 9.30am - 2.00pm		07881 448686
Website	www.ramsdenbellhouse.info		
Ramsden Parish Council	Sally Faulker (email: ramsdenbellhousepc@outlook.com) 07717 777540		

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