

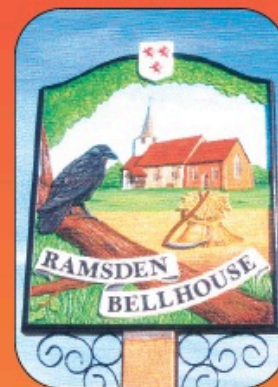
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Village Magazine Summer 2018



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A Word from the Editor

During my many years as Editor of this magazine, I have written of several local issues, with I regret to say little positive results. But as a persistent lady. I intend to write again of one or two problems as I see them.

But first to be positive. During the February snowy weather, I received daily calls from friends and neighbours enquiring after my welfare and shopping needs. It made me feel very safe and cared for, and restored my faith in human nature. Thank you all you lovely caring people.

That said here comes my negative observations. Most mornings, I walk to the Church and back for my daily exercise. Sadly as I enter the Church and cross the car park, I am disgusted that this peaceful, sacred place, little changed for centuries, has become a rubbish dump for, I dare to say, the younger generation of this village. Round the seat by the Church door are many, many cigarette ends, drink bottles, crisp packets etc. It has to be non driving teenagers, because anyone with a car would not choose to sit on the seat on a cold winter's night when they had a warm car to sit in. Correct me if I'm wrong! Sadly I know that the culprits are probably at the age of rebellion against the rules of decent society, and will not read this magazine. However perhaps parents might have a quick word. Yes I do know that at that age parents influence is often virtually nil, but its not really on, that an old lady of my advanced years should clear up their rubbish. *What do you think?*

This reminds me of another Churchyard problem - cars and vans parked all day on the Church car park. This is a **PRIVATE** car park for Church goes on Sundays, and during the week for funerals, weddings etc and for people visiting graves and weekday services. It is not for builders, tradespeople and those who have too many cars etc to park on their own drive. They are not only wearing our car park out, but they are causing a nuisance when the Church needs the car park. At one service I attended we were forced to park on the wet grass, because of this problem. We became stuck in the mud and not only required assistance to get out, but caused unsightly ruts on the grass, which is so beautifully maintained by our Church Warden Beryl. Perhaps the offenders should consider a generous donation to Church funds for the upkeep of our Churchyard.

So please do not convenience park long time on our Church Car Park, and teenagers, there is a dustbin in the car park for your rubbish.

Thank you to all those are connected with the production, publication and delivery of this magazine, as well as the advertisers. Copy for the next issue by September 20th either to me or preferably to bryan.diggory@sky.com.

Isabel Johnson

Chairmans Report

Spring is here, or so they tell us. The Daffs Are out some where under the last fall or snow, The sun is just peaking through the clouds, all is not lost as there is a change forecast, warmer weather is on the way and it is hoped that the beast from the east will finally be put back where he belongs. This has been a strange year so far, with hot and cold periods coming and going all the time so that even the plants are confused. Every year when this happens we complain but looking back it is normal.

The village hall held it's A.G.M. at the end of January, The Officers presented their reports and all agreed to stand for a further year. Which was then voted in. The last years charity cheque to Basildon Dementia for £2528.00 was presented to their representative. This was followed by a presentation by Basildon Mind Charity which was duly voted as next years hall charity.

During February the village hall held the new style History of Ramsden event. The change was brought about as Isabel wished to hand over the running to others. I must take the opportunity of thanking Isabel for all her efforts over the past years in collecting and cataloguing all this information. I only hope we can live up to her example in the future.

C Jeffree Chairman RBVH
chairman@ramsdensbellhouse.info



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World Book Day at Bellhouse Preschool March 2018

This morning the children were greeted by staff dressed as The Big Bad Wolf, The Very Hungry Caterpillar, Fantastic Mr Fox and Dorothy from the Wizard of Oz. The children came in a little bemused but when they realised it was us the smiles soon came and the chatter about favourite books and stories began. We had a magical morning building caves for our bear hunt, walking through the woods looking for the Gruffalo, and riding on a magic carpet. After a very busy morning we had worked up an appetite so we had porridge for snack in true Goldilocks style, not too hot, not too cold, it was just right.

It is one of the greatest parts of our job sharing a story with a young child watching them taking in every word and extending their imaginations with role play. It was great to see so many children dressed up on world book day, being excited about books and new stories. We hope that they continue this love of books as they grow older and move on to school.

Ann Marie Worthington




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Teddies for Tragedies Essex Branch

Teddies for Tragedies Essex Branch Again, not many teddies went out during the winter months, in fact only 360 went to Zambia making a grand total of 294,422 distributed to 55 different countries. As I write, there are about another 200 to be packed ready for distribution. Many blankets, jumpers, cardigans etc. have been sent to Eastern Europe.

I also received from a School Uniform Shop many boxes of school sweatshirts and cardigans where schools have changed their logo or the colour of their uniform. These cannot be sold in this country so I was able to send them to schools in Zambia where they will be going into their winter as summer approaches us. The Bibles and Hymn books that were sent to Brother Titus in Zambia were very well received and I heard from him how much they were appreciated, and he has asked for more if I can get them.

I am very pleased to tell you that 119 Christmas Shoeboxes were collected from me by Blythwood Care to go to Eastern Europe.

The breakdown was:

Teenage boys and girls	14
Girls aged 1 - 12 years	39
Boys aged 1 - 12 years	26
Special Needs Girls aged 7 - 9 years	1
Women	24
Elderly Women	4
Men	9
Family	1
Baby	1

Very many thanks to all who filled shoeboxes or gave me items to put in them. Blythwood put in a scripture calendar for adults and a book on Samuel for the children, of course, in their own language.

Practical gifts such as a warm hat, scarf and gloves (temperatures in Kragujevac in Serbia can drop below -20° Centigrade), a new pair of socks and a bar of soap, a toothbrush and toothpaste bring comfort and dignity to people in need. More than that, a gift of a Christmas Shoebox brings the joy of experiencing a simple act of human kindness, the realisation that somebody cares for you.

I hope this coming Christmas to help them again. Will you join me? I can give you a list of items to put in, and items that we are not allowed to send.

Enjoy your summer. God Bless.

Audrey Pegrum MBE Essex Branch Organiser

Your Baptist Church in the Village

Well we are now officially in spring but looking out of the window you could be forgiven for thinking it is January, snow and ice abound. The daffodils are out but looking extremely sorry for themselves.

Looking back over the winter months we celebrated Christmas 2017 with a combined "Toys and Tins Service", and "Carols by Candlelight" held on 17th December. These two services are normally held a week apart, the "Toys and Tins" service was planned for 10th December but had to be cancelled because of snow. The generous donations of toys, toiletries, tinned food, books and games were given to The Resource Centre in Basildon, to be distributed to needy families and to those who find themselves homeless.

We held a very successful concert on 10th March, to a full church. The title of the concert was "Trilogy of Love", with popular love songs being featured. We are hoping in the future, to be able to put on another concert featuring the same trio of female singers.

We are now looking forward to the summer and early autumn.



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Unfortunately this summer, for various reasons, we have found it necessary to cancel our proposed "Tea at the Ritz" afternoon tea, but hope to bring it back in summer 2019. Later this year, in November we are planning to have a "Curry Evening" so look out for the posters advertising this event.

Also please note our continuing Monday Morning Coffee break, held every Monday morning between 10:30 am and 12:00 noon, with guest speakers on alternative weeks, and the very successful Saturday Morning Breakfast, held on the first Saturday morning of each month in the Emmanuel Hall.

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 Family Sunday services are held at 10.30 am each week. Please do come along and share in worship with us. You will be very welcome.

Val Rook,
Church Secretary



Parish Council

Local Plan

Since last reporting on the status or lack of progress on the Local Plan as it relates to Ramsden Bellhouse, a revised draft plan has now been published by Basildon Council.

Unfortunately whilst some improvements and amendments have been included in the latest draft plan, the changes BC have made to the proposal in lower Church Road are most certainly not acceptable to the Parish Council or to the residents that have commented on them.

Details of these proposals are included on the Basildon Council website item 11.185 on page 128 at website reference:

<http://www.basildonmeetings.info/documents/s93264/Enc.%20%20-%20Basildon%20Borough%20Publication%20Local%20Plan%202014-2034.pdf>

with the proposals map of the Borough at:

<http://www.basildonmeetings.info/documents/s93270/Enc.%20%20-%20Publication%20Draft%20Local%20Plan%20Policies%20Map.pdf>

Following the meeting which was rescheduled for the 19th March

A poster for Baddow Consulting Limited. The background is light grey with decorative elements: a large black flower on the left, a black butterfly in the top right, and a large, intricate white floral design at the bottom. The text is centered and uses various font sizes and weights.

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where the plan was discussed at the Infrastructure Growth & Development Committee, a vote was taken with a few amendments (not including any relating to Ramsden Bellhouse) to take it to the full council meeting on Thursday 22nd March.

On the basis that BC have so far not responded adequately to the evidence based correspondence and objections from the residents and PC, it is anticipated that a further robust conversation and approach will need to take place with BC either before or during the further Public Consultation, which is scheduled to take place during May with the Government Inspector in attendance.

As this process is still ongoing (and subject to time of going to press) I would urge residents that have not so far read the BC w.site as it relates to Ramsden Bellhouse to do so.

Regardless of where you live in the village, if the proposals for lower Church Road go through as they are currently in the plan, they will have an impact on all of us in some shape or form, whether it be the introduction of house types that are 'out of character' with those currently in the village or the impact they will have/cause in terms of on street parking, traffic, safety, noise and the potential for the same type of properties to be introduced in the future near or next to you, given precedent will of then been set.

Any further 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

Further to the last status report covered in the previous 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.

I am pleased to advise that Superfast Essex have confirmed that after three years of effort almost all but a few residents have now registered their interest in High Speed Broadband.

Ian Frost the Contracts Manager representing Superfast Essex has been further contacted at the end of January and he has confirmed that the roll out of high speed broadband into the village is still on schedule, to be in place between September and December 2018.

As previously indicated the cabinet to be installed will be fibre enabled

by Openreach. 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.

In terms of costs and contracts you will be able to select how little or how much and the length of the contract, either from your existing or a new Service provider. 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.

In order to keep yourselves updated, Superfast Essex have suggested residents check nearer the time to see 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 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.

A number of other wireless and satellite options are of course available for residents to purchase separately, these potentially could have longer contracts and higher costs and do not have the support and are not part of the Superfast Essex plan backed by Essex County Council, unless indicated otherwise.

Richard Wellborne
Chairman Ramsden Bellhouse Parish Council



HELP!

DO YOU ENJOY ARRANGING FLOWERS.

If you do would you consider helping the ladies at St Mary's Church with their Flower Festival which is held over the Bank holiday weekend in August.

If you would like to know more please phone

Beryl on 01245 601298

Social Events

Line Dancing

Good company, good music and a chance to let your hair down for an hour every Monday 2.30 until 3.30 (except Bank Holidays) Our line dancing club is still open to new members or old members even. Feel free just to walk in and join us or come down and watch, you will be just as welcome.

Ann Wellborne.

Christmas Bazaar 2017

The Bazaar went very well with Father Christmas entering his Grotto just after 12.00. He was visited by lots of children eager to tell him their secret desires for their Christmas stockings. There were plenty of fun stalls for the children and stalls of interest for the Mums and Dads. Refreshments were available and delicious mulled wine and mince pies for those who fancied something more festive. Cakes for sale, plants, raffles and tombolas. Please come and support our Christmas event next year.

St George's Day Breakfast.

The Breakfast is the next event on the calendar. This will have taken place on the 22nd April before the magazine is distributed. I will write a full report in the next issue of the magazine.

Ramsden Bellhouse Music Festival 30th June 2017.

The Music Festival is taking place on the 30th June, gates open at 2.30 pm and the first performer comes on stage at 4pm. We are pleased to have the D'Ukes Essex finest ukulele band with us again, they were very popular the year before last, followed by Sarah Louise singing motown and country. Next Johnny Mack a George Michael with Wham tribute act and lastly Shot 2 with a fantastic soul finale. Tickets are still £20.00 for the fourth year running, Adults £20.00, 12 and under £10.00 and 5 and below free. Tickets include b.b.q. sausages and burgers with vegetarian option. Bring your own nibbles, drink and picnic chairs. Marquees will be in place with tables and chairs for those who choose to be under cover. Face painting, festival goodies and prosecco van on site. We desperately need help in setting up and dismantling this event so please get in touch if you would like to volunteer.

To book tickets please ring Abby Short 07917 003695 or Ann Wellborne 01268 710250. See you on the 30th.

Ann Wellborne. Social Secretary



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 100g/3 ½ oz butter - melted 100g/3 ½ oz lemon curd
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Method

Pre heat oven to 180c/350f/gas 4. Lightly oil and base line an 18cm/7inch cake tin with baking paper. In a large bowl whisk together the yoghurt, sugar, melted butter, eggs and lemon zest then quickly but thoroughly beat in the sifted flour. Pour the cake mixture into the prepared cake tin and cook in centre of oven for about 1 hour or until a skewer inserted into the centre of the cake comes out clean. Leave the cake to cool in the tin for 10 minutes, then transfer to a cake rack to cool completely. When cold cut the cake in half to make 2 equal discs, then sandwich them back together using the lemon curd. Dust the top with icing sugar or drizzle over icing made with icing sugar mixed with lemon juice. Can be served with Greek yoghurt or crème fraiche if wished.

Cake will freeze but is best decorated after defrosting.

Joan Wright



RAMSDEN BELLHOUSE VILLAGE HALL



Registered Charity No. 1025468

www.ramsdenbellhouse.info



Take a look at the Ramsden Bellhouse website and find out what is going on at the Village Hall as well as around the village.

You will find details of the various activities and clubs held in the Village Hall, local businesses as well as a history of the Village, the Church and surrounding areas. The Village Magazine is available to view in pdf form, going back to 2010. There is also a link to the Parish Council website, Ramsden Pre-School, the Baptist Church as well as the National Archives and UK Census Returns websites.

The website is regularly updated and gives a most comprehensive guide to what is happening in Ramsden Bellhouse.

If you would like to receive village newsletters and details of up and coming events, you can register your name and email address, and you will be added to our mailing list and receive advance notice of village activities and local news. Email: mallng@ramsdensbellhouse.info with your name and the email address you wish to register, placing **Register** in the subject line.

The website now has a Facebook page, which highlights coming events at the Village Hall. Go to www.facebook.com and search for Ramsden Bellhouse Village Hall.

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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

Rev. 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 continue to enjoy fellowship with our friends at the Baptist Church. On 2nd March, all the local churches were due to meet at the Baptist Church for the Women's World Day of Prayer, the service being written this year by the women of Suriname, but unfortunately it was the time of 'the Beast from the East', so due to the heavy snow it had to be cancelled. It was such a shame as the service named 'All God's Creation is Very Good' concentrated on saving the planet, and was very well put together with many useful ideas. At the time of writing this, we are looking forward to Palm Sunday celebrations when both churches and the other Anglican Churches in our group assemble at St Mary's and have a Walk of Witness to the Baptist Church for a combined service. Further joint services are scheduled for later in the year, but at this time they have not been decided.

Much laughter was heard in the Village Hall on Friday 10th November when we held our Beetle Drive in aid of the village charity, the Dementia Unit at Basildon Hospital. It was a really good fun evening and raised £351.25 which included £30 from the sale of Isabel's booklet "Rhymes and Scribbles" that she had written, compiled and dedicated to her sister Winifred, who is a victim of Dementia. All proceeds from its sale are

going to the Dementia Unit and Alzheimer's Research. Together with a £30 donation from St Mary's, we have been able to donate £381.25 to this very worthwhile charity.

The Remembrance Day Service at the Village Hall was very well attended. The service was planned and led by Jim Hamilton, the Baptist Church Pastor and the talk was given by our Rector Stephen Robertson. The collection of £295.00 was donated to BLESMA (The British Limbless Ex-Serviceman's Association).

The first event for this year was our annual quiz on 16th March organised by Angela and Steve Tuff (Alan Pegrum's daughter and son-in-law). It was very enjoyable and raised £586 towards Church funds. Many thanks to everybody who supported this event, and again many thanks to the Bowls Club members for putting out the tables and chairs for us. It is a big job and we are very grateful for their help.

St Mary's church will be open for visitors every Saturday from 10am to 4pm on the 28th April to the end of September provided a Steward is able to be present. If you are willing to consider this role occasionally (10am to 1pm or 1pm to 4pm), please contact Beryl on 01245 601298.

The first of our monthly Coffee Mornings to raise funds for the Flower Festival in August will take place on Saturday 12th May 10am to 12 noon at the Church, and then the second Saturdays in June (9th), July (14th) and August (11th).

Our next fundraising event is our Strawberry Cream Tea at the Village Hall on Saturday 16th June from 2pm to 4pm. Tickets are £5 each (children under 10 £2.50), available from Audrey 01268 710757, or Beryl 01245 601298.

Our big event is the Flower Festival over the August Bank Holiday, open on Saturday 2pm to 5pm with a concert by the Sid Bolan Big Band in the evening at 5pm in the Church grounds (if wet, this will take place in the Village Hall). Last year we were blessed with really fine weather over the whole weekend. People brought their own picnics, and many compliments were made on the entertainment provided by the Band and the Vocalist. This year we will be serving Ploughman's lunches and other refreshments during the afternoon and evening. Tickets for the Concert at £10 each will be available nearer the time from Audrey 01268 710757 or Beryl 01245 601298.

On Bank Holiday Sunday, the Church will be open from 11am to 4pm with Songs of Praise at 4pm, hopefully in the open air. Ploughman's lunches and other refreshment will be on sale with various stalls outside

and again on Bank Holiday Monday 11am to 2pm.

On Saturday 29th September, we will be holding a Coffee Morning in aid of MacMillan Cancer Care 10am to 1pm at the Church.

On Friday 9th November we will be holding a charity Beetle Drive at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. This will be St Mary's contribution towards the Village Charity effort on behalf of MIND. Tickets will be available nearer the time.

Audrey Pegrum MBE



Cubs Report

I am pleased to report yet another busy term for the 1st Ramsden & Downham Cubs group.

This term our cubs have been enjoying several activities both in the village hall and out and about to other packs facilities. One of our first nights out of the term was Rifle Shooting which took place at 3rd Billericay Scout HQ in Billericay.

Just before we broke up for the Christmas break, the cubs had a fantastic animal workshop Christmas party when a mobile zoo came along bringing small animals including a rabbit, skunk, tortoise and for the really brave ones, a snake and a tarantula! All the children had a fantastic time and it was a lovely way to finish for the festive period.

When we came back in January, we joined forces with Runwell Cubs as 11 of our members worked towards their hikes, away stay badge and enjoyed a one-night sleepover at 1st Runwell HQ in Wickford. Members of both packs started off their adventure by meeting at our village hall and then took part in a hike to Runwell HQ. Once there, they spent time in the fantastic 3D maze they have in the roof of their building and also some climbing on the traversing wall. After dinner, a camp fire and a couple of Lego movies, the last of the cubs fell asleep in the early hours.

In February and in keeping with Shrove Tuesday, our cubs had great fun making pancakes and even more fun eating them! Our last practical of this term has been making our bird boxes for the garden where the children have been building and decorating their creations.

We have had a couple of our cubs moving up to Scouts at the end of this term, but we are very pleased to say we have some new cubs due to start very soon and our pack numbers are still strong.

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WEDDING FLOWERS

Personal Page

Congratulations to:

Brian and Eileen Smith of 'Lorna Doone' on their Diamond Wedding Anniversary

In Memory of:

Marie Pegrum of Orchard Avenue who died at the beginning of this year. Marie was a very artistic lady, and taught Art at Basildon School for many years. She belonged to Ladies Club, and was for some time on the committee of the Horticultural Society. She was a valued helper at the Horticultural Shows, where she helped Maggie Dobson register the entries. She went to yoga at the Baptist Church until ill health prevented this. She was always willing to help at Village Events and is much missed by her friends at Teddy Bagging. Our sincere sympathies go out to Cyril and the family.

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



Fun Whist

Welcome to another issue of the Village Magazine. Time seems to be flying by and the spring flowers are now showing a tentative return after the onset of midwinter during mid-spring! A loyal band has supported the Whist evenings through the dark winter months and it has been cheery to have pleasant chatter and a laugh as we play our cards, definitely never taken too seriously! The numbers attending have been steadily increasing which is hugely encouraging. Sadly most of the new attendees are not from the Village and it would be lovely to welcome more from home ground! However, plenty of room for everyone and make a note to come along on the second Saturday of the month, 7-15pm start and join the group. Bring a friend, or several! The cost is just £3-00. Looking forward to seeing you!

Angela Hodivala



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Village Events throughout the year



Christmas Bazaar. Ernie and Barbara



Two Father Christmases?



Line Dancing Christmas Party



Line Dancing Christmas Party



Audrey at Christmas Bazaar



Pre School stall



AGM Village Hall 2018



New Team for History of Ramsden



Basildon Dementia Team help at Christmas Bazaar



Brian Comperes at the Christmas Bazaar



Barbara and Joan welcome visitors to History of Ramsden



History of Ramsden

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Dancing

Its that time of year again. We have had our winter snow and now spring appears to have sprung. The members of this section continue to enjoy our weekly get together and we now look forward to another fruitful year. Our Charity Square Dance is on the 19th May 2018 and is in aid of this years village charity, 'Basildon Mind' We look forward to seeing you there, but book early to avoid disappointment more information via the village hall web site.

We held a buffet dance for Valentines Day which was well attended.

Two of our members who have been married for 9 years, but have been friends for the past 25 years, have decided to celebrate 25 years of friendship as due to the 'advanced age' of one of them, they felt it better to celebrate this than possibly not make it to 25 years of marriage. They intend to treat their fellow members to cake and fizz at one of our evenings in April.

Finally we held our Winter Ball in January with an in house meal provided by Lambourne Catering. The meal was fantastic as was the after dinner dancing.

Barry Gardiner

Grahame Farley

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References Available

History of Ramsden

PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

The History of Ramsden Exhibition has been Isabel Johnson's project for almost 30 years, but in 2017 she announced her retirement. On learning of this, a few of us got together to form an archive team whose mission was to continue the annual exhibition, and take it into the digital age. Her collection of documents, pictures and memorabilia has been built up over all that time, and we felt we could not allow it to just suddenly disappear.

The archive team consists of Steve Tuff and Barbara Stanton, who look after the village hall website, Clive Jeffree, the Village Hall Chairman, and Dick Wellbourne, Village Hall Publicity Officer and Chairman of the Parish Council.

We have been successful in securing funding from the Parish Council, the Village Hall and the Essex Heritage Trust which has allowed us to purchase equipment and materials to aid us in taking the exhibition into the future.

Isabel kindly consented to us copying her personal collection, which is now being catalogued with a view to building a searchable database, which will find all available documents based on whatever interest the user has. We are about half way through this exercise, and should, all being well, have it up and running at the 2019 event.

Isabel's fellow exhibitor, Frank Fisher has also allowed us to keep his collection of maps and books, for which we are very grateful. This will mean that we are able to exhibit as much of the usual content as possible.

Our wish was that the transition should be seamless, in that all available material will still be accessible in the way it has always been, allowing the visitor to delve into the archive, as is the tradition.

This year we embarked on our first staging of the exhibition, which took place on Saturday 24th, and Sunday 25th February in the village hall, and Isabel and Frank were there as advisers, as well as relating their stories to many of the visitors.

The exhibition took its usual form, with documents, maps and pictures of events going back over 100 years. We had a steady stream of visitors, all enjoying the atmosphere of being able to sit and browse through all these memories, as well as the new technology, which enabled us to recall documents digitally so that visitors could take copies away with them.

As usual, there were refreshments with a selection of homemade

cakes, with the chance to sit and reminisce.

The proceeds of the event were in aid of village hall funds, and totalled just over £300.

The work continues to get all the information in digital form, including the original paper copies. Hopefully, at next year's exhibition we will be able to demonstrate more of this.

To help the collection grow, if you have any item of historical interest which you would like to donate, we would love to hear from you. Contact us by email - archive@ramsdenbellhouse.info. We also hope to develop the historical archive section on the village hall website - visit www.ramsdenbellhouse.info to check it out.

Please do come along and support us in the future - we would be very pleased to see you.

History of Ramsden Archive Team



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Post People of Bygone Years



Post man delivering the mail in Ramsden Bellhouse Pre 1919



Stan Carpenter delivered two posts daily 1919 - 1940. Cycling from Billericay each time.



Mary Shain delivered post on her bike in all weathers. She retired in 1990 after 26 years

Editor would be please to receive photos of other postman

Horticultural

It was fantastic to see so many people brave the cold and come out for our first meeting of the year. This talk was on Bee Keeping by Paul Honeyman. It was fascinating to learn more about the wonderful world of keeping bees. Our trading hut is open to members at every monthly meeting from 7pm until 7:45pm.

The topic of our next meeting was 90 years of the National Garden Scheme and the gardens that are open in aid of it all over Essex. It was fantastic to learn about some of the charities that the NGS has supported over the years. Our members were left with a challenge to all visit at least one garden open under the NGS this year. This is a challenge that I am sure many of us will take up.

Also during February the Annual Intersociety Quiz took place. This year the event was hosted by Runwell Horticultural Society. There were 11 tables from several local horticultural societies. Galleywood were the eventual winners with 90 points with Ramsden Bellhouse Horticultural Society not far behind on 81. It is a fantastic way to keep the local horticultural societies connected and a great evening was had by all.



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Lastly our March monthly meeting included our Daffodil Mini Show. With recent weather it is no surprise that entries were down on last year. However, there were still some fantastic exhibits on display. Thank you to all those who brought daffodils along as they filled the room with colour and fragrance.

Our two major shows this year are the Summer Show on Saturday 2nd of June and our Autumn Show on Saturday 8th September. All are welcome to come along!

Thomas Carpenter, Show Secretary



Scouts Report

We have a busy programme and since last September the scouts have taken part in the following activities: Commonwealth Games (planning, history and playing), Chefs Badge and Camp Cooking Badge: (where to buy food and how to store it), Sewing on buttons and badges, the Importance of Remembrance Day and a talk/presentation by Isobel Johnson local resident, Village Hall Committee Member and Magazine Editor (Isobel talked about WW2 and the effects on Ramsden Bellhouse and brought along memorabilia including tins, a helmet, bullets & shells, records and a WW1 truncheon). The scouts made a poppy wreath for Remembrance Sunday. Near Halloween we had a spooky night with apple bobbing, Frankenstein in the dark, the black hole and a mummy wrap.

Bird Boxes, Mechanics Activity Badge (practical, theory and a car quiz), Chefs Activity Badge Work, Who wants to be a millionaire - scout style, Memory Game, 'Sheep Dog Trials', Go Kart Racing, Australia Day (BBQ, Quiz and craft), Digital Citizen Activity Badge work, knots & pioneering, followed by a 'pioneering race', work on Digital Maker Activity Badge (make a sandwich and write down the procedure) and pancakes (cooking and eating followed by pancake races).

Weekly games have included newspaper hockey, basketball, football cricket (kick it) and football.

All of the activities mentioned above took place at our headquarters, Ramsden Bellhouse Village Hall.

Once a month we have an 'night out' and these took us on a circular Hike - starting and finishing at the Three Compasses, West Hanningfield, to the 3D indoor maze at Thriftwood Scout Activity Centre and a visit to the Belvedere Golf Driving Range.

The scouts are encouraged to work as a team, respect the environment, and take responsibility for their possessions and those of others and to 'Be Prepared.'

An overnight camp at Riffhams Campsite, near Danbury, took place at the end of September. The weather was kind and it was an enjoyable event other than the insects. The scouts cooked for themselves, worked on the Global Issues Badge and did a hike. As usual there was a campfire in the evening that was re-ignited the following morning and was used by the scouts to cook breakfast. There was also plenty of time for the scouts to play in the woods. Eight scouts, one young leader and five leaders took part.

We currently have 10 scouts, with plenty of room for new recruits, and 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





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Jim Hamilton Talks

Have you ever met anyone really famous? Probably some of you have. Our son James recently showed me a picture of him with the Late Ken Dodd taken after one of his shows when our son's theatre company was invited backstage. James said it was typically taken well after midnight following one of Ken Dodd's marathon shows. I remember once passing the singer Tom Jones in an airport but I don't think that counts as actually meeting him. However, I can claim to have met someone very famous, in fact someone very powerful, arguably the most powerful person in the world! It happened in 1979 when I was minister of Calderwood Baptist Church in Scotland. Around that time, the oil boom was happening in the North Sea and a link was formed between the Scottish Baptists and Southern Baptists in the United States. A group about 30 Scottish Baptist ministers visited the United States to engage in a number of seminars and preaching opportunities and I was fortunate to be included in that group. For our final weekend we were invited to attend the First Baptist Church in Washington DC and prior to the service we took part in their Adult Sunday School. When we were all seated, suddenly the door opened and in walked Jimmy Carter who was then President of the United States. He was a member of that church and regularly worshipped there and participated in the Sunday School. At the end an announcement was made that 30 ministers from Scotland were in attendance and to our amazement we were invited to form a line and be introduced to President Carter and his wife Rosalind, and to shake their hands. As I waited for my turn in the queue I frantically tried to think of what I might say when I shook the hand of the most powerful man in the world. When my turn came and I shook his hand, before I could say anything he said to me, "We would like you to pray for us!" I mumbled something like, "I certainly will" and moved on - the moment was gone. I had just shaken the hand of the most important person in the world, the hand that could be used to press a button that could destroy the planet, and he asked me to pray for him. I remember buying a postcard with his photo on it and pinning it to my study wall when I got home and I honoured my promise and did regularly pray for him (unfortunately he lost the next election but I think that was more to do with the Iran Hostage Crisis than my inadequate praying!). What a privilege it was to meet and shake hands with the most powerful man in the world and be asked simply to pray for him. It is a memory I will never forget.

I am writing this just before Easter and I'm reminded of the fact that I have also met Someone even more important than the most important man in the world. I haven't seen him or shaken his hand, but by faith I have met him and He has changed my life. Of course I am talking about Jesus Christ. And here is the great thing - not everyone can meet the President, but everyone can meet Jesus simply by inviting Him to enter our lives, forgive us for the wrong things we have done and allow Him to take over the controls. Easter - His death and resurrection - has made that possible. Have you met Him and has He changed your life?

I pray you have that experience too.

Jim Hamilton, Minister, Ramsden Bellhouse Baptist Church





cubs



scouts
be prepared . . .

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We have many Outnights such as swimming, karting, fire lighting and backs wood cooking, laser tag, cinema, bowling and lots more.

We hold lots of fun days and camps, we take part in activities including canoeing, archery, rifle shooting, climbing, hiking ...

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No Entry

In the quiet Essex Village lived Mustapha Payne the local dentist. His gentle manner and the kindness he showed to children gained him a lot of friends. Mustapha's big interest was the world's animals and birds. He got very distressed when he read about animals being killed for their tusks. The smaller animals being killed for bush meat he also did not like.

For his fiftieth birthday his friends and family treated him to a safari holiday in Kenya. Mustapha soon started to enjoy the holiday experience, seeing the wild animals that he had only previously seen on television. Each day a guide would take the visitors out viewing the wildlife from a safari land rover. Everyone had good views of Giraffe eating the tree tops, herds of Zebra roaming in the grasslands. Elephants were trampling the vegetation as they looked for their next meal. They were also able to watch Lions hunting their prey in the bush.

One day in the middle of the holiday the guide took them to a wire compound, the door was clearly marked NO ENTRY. Inside this enclosure was a large group of monkeys. The guide explained that the animals were mainly orphans that had been rescued. Monkeys get killed on the roads by large logging trucks. Some of their parents had been killed for bush meat. Mustapha started chatting to the keeper who pointed out one little creature that was staying back from the main group holding its head and not eating. He asked if he could look closely at the monkey, it was caught and brought over to him. Mustapha soon found the monkeys problem, there was an abscess growing above a broken tooth. He went back to the safari vehicle and returned with his small medical bag. A minor operation was performed the abscess was lanced and the fluid drained on to a cotton wool pad. With his medical pliers he removed the broken tooth. The little monkey got very excited and tried to lick Mustapha's face to thank him and show signs of friendship.

The holiday continued with lots more to see. On one trip the group were taken to a river where Springbok, Impala and Gazelle had all come down to drink. On the far bank crocodiles were waiting for any sign of a weak animal.

All too soon the holiday was over and Mustapha had to return to Essex and his dental practice.

To celebrate his next birthday he went on a day trip to Longleat to see the animals in the Safari Park. A warden took them round in a large enclosed vehicle and pointed out all the wild animals from a safe distance.

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Towards the end of the tour they got out and walked to the monkey enclosure. The keeper told them that they had some new arrivals which had come from a wildlife park in Kenya. When the visitors reached the wire fence one of the monkeys left the troop and rushed over to greet Mustapha. His little friend had remembered the kindness that had been shown the previous year.

Mike Craig



Bowls Club

As we enter springtime, though with the snow falling at present it doesn't feel like it, we are nearing the end of our league season. The Rooks are in 6th place in division 2, but have games in and so hoping for good results in those remaining games. The Ravens are in 2nd place in a very close division 5 and the Robins are top of division 6. The Rooks and Ravens have both qualified for the finals day in the Memorial Cup competition to be held in April.

We continue to enjoy cakes for member's birthdays. Since the last magazine we have celebrated Frank's 90th, unfortunately he was too ill to attend bowls for his presentation and the card had to be delivered to him. Thankfully he is back bowling again now. Also celebrated Christine's 80th birthday and Eileen & Brian Smith's Diamond Anniversary with presentations. Members sign the card for special occasions and Eileen was so keen she signed her own card saying they must have got married around same time as us!!!

Glad to say members have continued to enter outside bowls competitions. Congratulations to Melvin, Emily, Sylvia and David for being runner's up in the Johnny Walker Short Mat Gala 2018 at Princess Marie Louise Bowling Club, which was won by a team from East Tilbury and Eddie, Evelyn, Sylvia and David for winning the Jenny Orpin Fours Competition 2018 at East Hanningfield.

We put in a good number of entries into the Essex National Qualifying competitions. Congratulations to Emily, who with her partner, Paul from Island Club, came 4th and has qualified for the National's in April. Well done also to Kay & Peter for coming 4th in the over 55 Essex National Qualifiers.

A very enjoyable quiz was held in October to raise funds for the Village Hall's Charity, the Dementia Ward at Basildon Hospital. Thanks to Stuart for organizing this. As usual the bowls club did a cake stall at the Village Bazaar. The cakes are always popular, thanks to Isabel for sorting, and baking and Audrey and all other members who made cakes. The Annual Christmas Dinner held in the Village Hall was enjoyed by members and their partners. Thanks to Jane and Barry for arranging this and Melvin for the fun bowls that followed. At the start of March a Race Night was enjoyed by members and guests and raised a healthy sum for club funds. Well done, a brilliant effort by Stuart, Melvin, Hilary & helpers.

We now have our own website - ramsdensbellhouseSMBC.wordpress.com - for information about our club, wonderfully set up by Hilary.

Kay Debenham



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A Beekeepers Summer

Dealing with Swarms - and on the Look Out for the Deadly Asian Hornet.

Beekeepers know April-August as the peak season for honey bee swarms. Honey bee colonies build up in the hive in spring and then, through their urge to reproduce, they divide the colony into two. The old queen will seek to leave the hive taking many (often most) of the bees with her. The remaining bees stay behind and raise a new queen. Honey bees have been around for thousands of years - and this is their strategy for survival. Two colonies, in two different locations, will have a better chance of surviving the hazards of nature than one.

Swarming is bad news for the beekeeper because of the loss of so many bees. But even though beekeepers take measures to prevent their bees swarming, sometimes the bees will simply go anyway. And beekeepers are aware that these bees can turn up just about anywhere; including in people's gardens. Many people see a swarm for what it is; a wonder of nature, but others will not like the inconvenience - and so beekeepers provide a service to go and collect a swarm at once. If you do see a swarm of bees, please contact chelmsfordbeekeepers.com or southendbeekeepers.wordpress.com for a beekeeper to come and save the bees and find them a new home.

There is an insect, though, that beekeepers are on the look-out for this summer that will need to be eradicated - and this is the Asian hornet (*vespa velutina*). This is not to be confused with the European hornet, the large wasp we see in summer that emits a low hum - rather like a quiet motor. The Asian hornet arrived in France in 2004, supposedly in a consignment of Chinese pottery. It quickly became established there and has been effective at destroying European honey bee colonies (and other native pollinators) that have no resistance. The hornets hang around outside the hives for a honey bee to return, heavy with pollen, and after catching her, they take her back to the nest to feed their young. Just a few Asian hornets can wipe out a honey bee colony in hours.

Having moved up through France, the Asian hornet was first spotted on the British mainland in 2016. Another nest was found in 2017. These discoveries were made in the West Country and their nests were destroyed. If Asian hornets are seen, this sighting must be reported to the Non Native Species Secretariat (alernonnative@ceh.ac.uk) and experts will be sent out at once to eradicate the nests.

The Asian hornet is smaller than the European hornet, and is entirely dark brown or black, with one yellow band and yellow tipped legs. It has a black head with an orange/yellow face (our native hornet can be recognised by its largely yellow abdomen). Please be on the look-out for it in our village gardens, but be sure that is an Asian hornet and not a native insect. Our precious honey bees are facing many threats in the modern world and need all the help they can get. This deadly predator, if established, could really hit them hard.

Wendy Swift



Editors Note

Please let me have more input from the younger generation.



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Bus Timetable

Timetables for Service No 10 *Monday to Friday & Saturday*

Monday to Friday

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

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	0928	1128	1328	1528	----	----
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

MAY

Saturday 12th	Coffee Morning	10am - Midday	St Mary's Church
Saturday 12th	Fun Whist	7.15pm	Village Hall
Saturday 26th	Crunch	9am - Midday	Village Hall

JUNE

Saturday 2nd	Horticultural Summer Show	2pm - 3.30pm	Village Hall
	Entries 9am		
Saturday 9th	Coffee Morning	10am - Midday	St Mary's Church
Saturday 9th	Fun Whist	7.15pm	Village Hall
Saturday 16th	Strawberry Cream Tea	2pm - 4pm	Village Hall
	Tickets Audrey 710757		
Saturday 30th	Music Festival Open 2.30pm	4pm - Midnight	Village Hall

JULY

Saturday 14th	Coffee Morning	10am - Midday	St Mary's Church
Saturday 14th	Fun Whist	7.15pm	Village Hall

AUGUST

Saturday 11th	Coffee Morning	10am - Midday	St Mary's Church
Saturday 11th	Fun Whist	7.15pm	Village Hall
Saturday 25th	Flower Festival	2pm - 5pm	St Mary's Church
Saturday 25th	Big Band Concert	Open at 5pm	St Mary's Church
	Tickets Audrey 710757		
Sunday 26th	Flower Festival	11am - 4pm	St Mary's Church
Sunday 26th	Songs of Praise	4pm	St Mary's Church
Monday 27th	Flower Festival	11am - 2pm	St Mary's Church

SEPTEMBER

Saturday 8th	Fun Whist	7.15pm	Village Hall
Saturday 15th	Horticultural Autumn Show	2pm - 3.30pm	Village Hall
	Entries 9am		
Saturday 29th	McMillan Coffee Morning	10am - 1pm	St Mary's Church

OCTOBER

Saturday 13th	Fun Whist	7.15pm	Village Hall
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NOVEMBER

Friday 9th	Beetle Drive	7.30pm	Village Hall
	In Aid of Charity Mind		
Saturday 10th	Fun Whist	7.15pm	Village Hall

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	- Sandy Black	01268 734357
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	- Sue Walter sue.walter1@icloud.com	
Scouts	Wed 7.30pm - 9.30pm except 2nd Wed in month	- Chris Maker	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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