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# RAMSDEN BELLHOUSE

## Village Magazine Summer 2019



*I think that I shall never see, A poem lovely as a tree.*

*Joyce Kilmer 1886 - 1918*



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## A Word from the Editor

The Calendar tells me it's 2019 and also tells me that I have now been editing this magazine for 30 years! A very amateur first edition, of which I have to say, I was very proud!, went to every house in Ramsden Bellhouse in the summer of 1989, and then Bryan Diggory showed me how to put together a more professional effort. Since then between us, we have produced two editions a year, and I have to thank him for teaching me about "cut and paste," spacing, arranging and that the Editor has the final word! (what power!)

Moving on - the editorial should comment on the contents of this magazine, (can't do it on those that come in late!) However I particularly love the article on "Trees" by Wendy and the pictures. From my front window I can see two large oak trees, one of which is 200 years old, ornamental flowering trees, many conifers a willow and a silver birch, and from the back window, hazels, silver birch, pussy willow, various conifers, oaks, eucalyptus, horse chestnut, prunus and sycamore. How many can you see? I count myself very lucky and wonder if it is why we have four people in Orchard Avenue well into their nineties!!

Last year's Village Charity "Mind" raised £2,507, and a cheque for that amount was presented by Clive at the Village AGM last January. Our new Charity is "Hearing Help Essex". Over the next year events will be held to support this charity, and your support would be more than welcome.

I have included in this magazine a list, kindly provided by Audrey Pegrum, of the regular weekly Village Hall events - some run by Village Hall Sections and some on Private Hire basis. all are open to the public. This is in response to a comment, that all Village Hall activities may not generally be known. No excuse now Ramsden Bellhouse use your Village Hall!!

Lastly, we sadly have to say goodbye to our Rector Stephen Robertson and his wife Fiona. He has been our Rector at St Mary's Ramsden Bellhouse, as well as St Margaret's Downham and St Peter's South Hanningfield for the last thirteen years. We wish you both all the best from this magazine for your new ministry in Carlisle.

Thanks to all those connected with the production, publication and delivery of this magazine, as well as the advertisers. Copy for the next issue by September 20th 2019, either to me or preferably to [bryan.diggory@sky.com](mailto:bryan.diggory@sky.com).

*Isabel Johnson*

## Chairmans Report

I have some good news for the users of the Ramsden Bellhouse Hall, spring is on the way, the Daff's are out, the trees are beginning to sprout but best of all the village hall heating is now fully in commission. It has now been working on AUTO for several weeks with full Boiler Temperature control, so no more freezing morning with no more calls for help to get the heating to start up.

I am sitting in my dining room trying to think what to write, with my 10 month old Lab puppy (RED) badgering me to go out for a walk, or in his case a run, full of energy. O how I wish he could pass some on to me as he appears to have plenty to spare. I regularly take him for an hour long exercise run to one of the parks around here, he gets stronger while I get weaker. I take him to the Bellhouse dog training where he tells me what to do, I get the feeling that it is not him that needs the training but me. He appears to know all the answers while I appear to have lost the plot. The trainer tells that it is doing me good which I have my doubts. The other day I took him to the vets for a routine kennel cough jab, She said the dog was OK but I needed a holiday with plenty of rest, little chance of that. One good point is that he appears to have given up eating toilet paper and chewing up shoes, I brought him a small toy bear reputed to be dog proof it lasted a few minutes still you cannot have everything.

2019 AGM at the end of January was very successful with a good turn out, I wish to thank all those who attended who gave support to last years committee and for their support for next year.

Last years charity (Basildon Mind unit) were presented with a cheque for £2446 for which thanks were received. Voting for next years charity were taken (Hearing help Essex) were the winners.

Thanks all for your help over the last year

C Jeffree Chairman RBVH  
chairman@ramsdensbellhouse.info



### Advertising Rates

Coloured Half pages - limited	£33.00
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## Bellhouse Preschool

We recently had breakfast week at Bellhouse Preschool. At snack time each day we tried a different breakfast from another country. We had waffles from Belgium croissants from France, pancakes and syrup from America, chocolate rice pudding from the Philippines and Nachos and cheese from Mexico. We looked at the different countries on the world map and the children were surprised at how small the United Kingdom was and how far from the Philippines we were !!

The Pancakes and waffles were a favourite, and there were definitely a few frowns when we had a pudding for breakfast.

We all enjoyed breakfast week at preschool this year and hopefully we will find some different breakfasts we can try next year.

Next term we look forward to planting the hanging baskets with Ken. We really enjoy this activity as it's really messy and we get to watch our plants grow all through the summer.



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## Bygone Years

*Taken from Village Magazine 1965*

Dear Sir,

Much representation has been made for main drainage in Ramsden, yet I wonder how many of our villagers will really welcome the most probable outcome. Building licences will be easier to get, roads become ripe for Basildon Council to take over (and make up at our expense), housing estates eventually gain a foothold, and so on towards becoming a nondescript adjunct of the New Town.

Main drainage, in itself, is a desirable amenity, but I for one would forego it rather than lose the Ramsden I like. It cannot be denied, that the building allowed in recent years has made a case for more efficient drainage, particularly on health grounds. Yet if new building was severely restricted, with waste disposal methods properly looked into (and improved where necessary, this could still have been worth trying for as an alternative more advantageous in the long run.

Not being an active participant in local affairs, it would be presumptuous of me to do more than express a personal point of view but I submit that a fast growing, land hungry Basildon New Town will look favourably on any area which, having main drainage, would be capable of sustaining a higher population density. The fact that we are labelled "Green Belt" today does not preclude us being designated "Green Chumps" tomorrow.

Many, no doubt, will think all this an exaggerated view, but consider the state of our side roads after drains have been laid. Can we then expect a clamour for the Council to make up the resultant muddy bogs because tradespeople will no longer deliver? Is this so very fanciful? It is certainly not an exaggeration to say that all those with the average Ramsden frontage face prospects of a bill that may well reach four figures over the next few years" This in turn will encourage selling off of plots to raise the cash, thus starting a chain reaction towards that road, which, though paved with good intentions will, I fear, change the whole character of our village community.

Yours faithfully,  
J.H. Handoll,  
"Kenly" Glebe Road

## Dancing

Here we are again, either the months are shrinking or I am getting older, Spring has sprung and now we look forward to Summer. The Dance Section continues to thrive and we thank those members who give their time to ensure everything happens when it should. We always welcome new members and if you are interested contact details are in the magazine directory, we are ballroom and Latin American style dancers of varying standards and if you are taking dancing lessons it is an ideal venue to practice.

We had our annual dinner off site this year and also celebrated one of members 80th birthday. We have also celebrated a 75th birthday with a buffet dance and will prior to publication celebrate a 65th birthday in our usual style.

Enjoy the coming summer and keep dancing it keeps you fit.

Barry Gardiner



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## Parish Council

### Local Plan

Further to information communicated under this heading in the Winter 2018 issue, Basildon Council has advised the Parish Council that the Local Plan including responses received from residents will have been submitted (by time of Press date) to the Government Inspector and examination will take place in September 2019.

### Neighbourhood Plan

As also indicated in the previous issue of this magazine, a decision had been taken by the PC and based on the feedback of the community to proceed with the 'Making' of a Neighbourhood Plan for Ramsden Bellhouse.

Given the amount of additional work and cost required to create the plan, the need was recognised mindful that with housing figures potentially being reviewed by Government every 5 years and Basildon Council requiring the village to take its share by accommodating further housing, it is essential that whilst we will not be able to prevent further housing the NP will give the PC and community greater influence and control in relation to Planning moving forward.

In order to achieve this objective until the NP 'is made', it will be necessary for the PC and NP Working Party to proceed in the prescribed manner laid down in statutory guidelines which will be monitored by BBC. This process will also ensure that all residents have the opportunity to vote on the NP through a referendum.

Whilst the process has commenced and meetings are taking place with the NP Working Party, it is still in the early stages of a process that is expected to take up to 24 months.

Other considerations that have had to be factored in are related to potential costs for and including increased salary (hours related) by the PC Clerk, the support services provided by the RCCE and final completion of the plan/process by a Consultant. Whilst these cost areas in part will be supplemented by Grant opportunities, it reluctantly means a contribution will also be necessary for an increase to the precept in 2019.

The PC also has to be mindful that various monies previously passed from Government annually to BBC and on to the PC are now being retained by BBC. Another factor that will potentially have financial implications is that Essex County Council are intending to proceed with a Devolution Plan that will ultimately mean that cost areas will fall on the



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community moving forward.

Details of the Neighbourhood Plans progress will be communicated on the RBPC web site and Notice Board as well as PC meetings and through those residents that represent the community on the NP Committee.

### **Broadband**

As most of us are frustratingly aware, there have been further delays and changes from the plan originally provided to the PC by Essex County Council/Superfast Essex. The amount of coverage to be provided and timing is now we understand subject to Openreach finding an alternative location for an additional cabinet, it is disappointing that this location was not planned and agreed 12 months earlier.

On other options that are currently available one is County Broadband's 'fibre to the home' service which in terms of speed is superior to that being provided through Superfast Essex (fibre to the pole and copper wire to the home). A considerable number of residents I understand have signed up to the service they are planning to install (provided they hit their required target number of homes), currently (at time of press) they are only a few short of the number required.

Finally, I am informed that the 'Wireless provider' IDNET has installed its transmitter onto the roof of the village hall and that it has now been connected, initially to four properties in Homestead Road.

Potentially you/we will have a number of different providers offering different solutions and services at differing speeds, costs, technology and start dates we can choose from!

### **Other issues**

In response to the residents that have approached me concerning the increasing number of vehicles that are being parked on the pavements in Church Road, it is illegal to block a pavement/public right of way and whilst it is often not the owners of the new homes that are being built that are parking on the pavements, it would be appreciated by all concerned particularly the disabled and those with push chairs and dog owners, if you can speak with your builder and ask them to respect your neighbours right of way rather than going down the route of enforcement and fines.

### **Speeding**

One of the most annoying and dangerous issues discussed is excessive speeding, particularly in Church Road, once again if residents will respect

their fellow villagers and adhere to the speed limit, it is hoped this will have the desired effect of slowing traffic passing through the village, rather than the option of introducing a punitive option.

Richard Wellborne  
Chairman Ramsden Bellhouse Parish Council



## **BUS TIMETABLE**

**THERE WILL NO LONGER BE A BUS TIMETABLE  
IN THIS MAGAZINE AS IT NOW CHANGES  
EVERY MONTH.**

## **How Stupid we have become!**

### **Scenerio:**

Johnny falls over while playing football  
during morning break and scrapes his knee.  
He is found crying by his teacher, Mary.  
She hugs him to comfort him.

**1950s** - In a short time, Johnny feels better and  
goes on playing football. No damage done.

**2017** - Mary is accused of being a sexual  
predator and loses her job.  
She faces 3 years in prison.

Johnny undergoes 5 years of therapy and ends up gay.



## Bowls Club

We are now approaching the end of the league season, the Rooks in Division 2 are in 3rd place with 2 games to play, so should be safe in that league. The Ravens will hopefully manage to stay in Division 4 and the Robins are in a very close fight to get promotion from Division 5. This is Peter's final year as Club Captain, thank you Peter for all the time you have put into this post.

As well as the league games we have had a few friendlies and Kay is already arranging the friendly games for the summer. The friendly games give the chance for those who don't want to play league to play against other clubs. It is good to see a growing number of members taking part in other clubs all day competitions. Members are also joining various bowling holidays with both Seaxe and Friends of Essex among others.

We had a good entry into the National Qualifying competitions (Essex Championships) this year with some success. Stuart & Melvin won the Plate Pairs. Emily qualified for 3 National Competitions, the 4's and mixed 4's both playing with members from other clubs and the Triples with her Mum & Dad, Sylvia & David. Kay & Peter qualified for the 0/55 National Competition.

These all take place in the next few weeks so good luck to all. The Christmas dinner was a great success. The various club trophies were presented and all members and guests enjoyed a good meal. Kay & Chris won the Friday afternoon pairs competition and David won the Monday night competition. Good to see different names winning! Thanks to Jane and Barry for organising the dinner and they have already booked our meal for this year.

We always break for tea/coffee and biscuits and on many occasions cakes as members bring them in to celebrate birthdays. Presentations are made for special birthdays and anniversaries.

Recently we have celebrated Terry's 80th and Irene's 90th. Unfortunately for our younger members we don't make presentations for younger than 80! Sad to report that Rita, one of our long serving members died following a stroke. She is sadly missed and our thoughts are with her family. It's nice to welcome Anne & Frank to our afternoon pairs session.

Glad that we have such a happy club, news of which can be found on our website:- [ramsdenbellhousesmbc.wordpress.com](http://ramsdenbellhousesmbc.wordpress.com).

Kay Debenham



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## Scouts Report

Recently the scouts undertook activities to celebrate St David's Day and St Patrick's Day that included quizzes and word searches. A lot of activities relate to badge work, including practical exercises such as ironing their uniform, sewing on a button and how to operate a washing machine (homework). Other activities have included a number of discussions and forums covering topics such as World Mental Health Day, Vote Now how the electoral system works, the dangerous and harmful effects of alcohol, drugs and tobacco and the importance of getting enough sleep and eating a healthy diet.

Fun activities were making pancakes, the Black Hole, Mummy Wrap, buzz challenge dark games, blind folded go karts, the burst the balloon challenge - not as easy as it sounds, tug of war, 'shark infested sea' and swamp boards..

The scouts made a poppy wreath for the Remembrance Day last November and a number attended the service held at the village hall.

Weekly games have included football, newspaper hockey, basketball and football cricket (kick it), that are always very competitive.

Our monthly 'outnights' included visits to a golf driving range, Base Jump at Rayleigh, a short hike near West Hanningfield, a visit to Thriftwood Scout Camp for fire lighting, pitta pizzas and wide games, and a visit to Runwell Scouts to use their Bouldering Wall and 3D Maze.

Last November scouts and leaders from the troop took part in the Billericay & Wickford District night hike that started in Queens Park Country Park and finished in Emmanuel Church Hall, Billericay. It was a clear cool evening, ideal for walking. Over 150 scouts and leaders took part. More recently we did our own hike from Stock to Runwell, a distance of 8 miles, via Hanningfield Nature Reserve and stayed over at the Runwell Scout HQ. It was very windy but we had the usual campfire, followed by a film show.

We currently have 14 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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## The Story of our Village Trees

What makes up our village? Its people, and how we live and what we do, our pets and the wild creatures living around us, the buildings we live in and use. There are also, throughout our village, our trees, of all ages and of different varieties. Some of these are our oldest residents; they have stood here for centuries. All of them provide a beautiful background to our own daily lives.



Many of these trees will always have a place in our memories of living in the village. Children growing up here today will add to their memories the large or striking tree in their garden, their neighbours' garden or their road. Older residents have their own stories of many of the trees in our village, such as who planted them and when, how they climbed them as children, or the gatherings of families, friends and neighbours in their shade. Our trees witness village life. Perhaps it's no surprise that the Old English name for tree is treow, which also means 'truth'. Whatever we've done in the village, our trees have seen it all!

We should be proud of our trees. Just look at our lovely oaks. According to the Woodland Trust it is likely that the British Isles have more ancient oaks than the rest of Europe put together. Our village has many oaks in different stages of life, from sapling to veteran tree. A single, ancient oak can support more than 2000 species of bird, insect, fungus and lichen. It shelters a world within a world.



Nothing is more important to us than the behaviour of our trees. They suck up carbon dioxide and pour out oxygen. One of our ancient oaks, for example, produces around 234,000 litres of oxygen a year which is more than enough for one person. In an area of the country where pollution is such a concern, and in a country where childhood asthma is the worst in Europe, our

trees will help us breathe. We need our trees as we face Climate Change. Our heatwave last summer gave us a taste of extreme weather; while the heavy heat bounced off the fences and brick walls, our trees provided us with shade and fresh air.

Living with trees is good for our health and wellbeing. They enrich our local wildlife and add to our village memories and stories. Our generation shouldn't be the one that destroys the trees that have stood here for decades, or even centuries, by carelessly concreting or tarmacking around their roots or by removing them altogether because they are deemed 'inconvenient'. It will be wonderful for our village if we protect our trees and even add to them, by planting more. It is a pleasant thought that children involved in planting a village tree this year, may come back, full of childhood memories, to see it again as a new century is beginning.

Wendy Swift



## 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.

Churchwarden: Mrs. Beryl Clements, 01245 601298

### Services:

1st	Sunday:	Evening Prayer, 6.30pm Summer.
2nd	Sunday:	Holy Communion, 9.30pm.
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 Hanningfield, usually at 10.00am.

We continue to enjoy fellowship with our friends at the Baptist Church. On 1st March all the local churches met at St. Margaret's Downham for the World Day of Prayer, the service this year written by the women of Slovenia with the theme "Come Everything is ready". It was a lovely moving service followed by a very nice lunch.

At the time of writing we are looking forward to our first fundraising event which is our annual quiz on Friday 5th April organised by Angela and Steve Tuff (Alan Pegrum's daughter and son-in-law) and we are also looking forward to our Palm Sunday celebrations when members of the



Baptist Church and the other Anglican Churches in our group assemble at the Baptist Church and have a Walk of Witness to St. Mary's for a combined service. Further joint services are scheduled for later in the year, but at this time they have not been decided.

A lovely fun evening was held in the village hall on 9th November when we held our Beetle Drive in aid of the village charity, Basildon MIND. £363.50 was raised and together with a £30 donation from St. Mary's, we have been able to donate £393.50 to this worthwhile charity. Thank you to all who supported us and to the ladies who made the lovely cakes.

This year at the Village Hall AGM the charity chosen was Hearing Help Essex. This is a small charity which has helped over 5,000 individuals with hearing loss over the last year carrying out Hearing Help sessions, home visits and information services etc. They will be opening centres in Wickford and Billericay in the future so were delighted that they had been chosen. We too were delighted as St. Mary's put them forward. A date for your diaries - Friday 8th November at 7.30pm, Beetle Drive in aid of this charity.

The Remembrance Day Service at the village hall was well attended. The service was planned and led by our Rector Stephen and the talk was given by Jim Hamilton, the Baptist Church Pastor. The collection of £238.00 was donated to BLESMA (The British Limbless Ex-Serviceman's Association).

During December, the inside of the Church was decorated and very nice it looks too. Our next project is the painting and repair of the steeple.

Our next fundraising event is our Strawberry Cream Tea at the village hall on Saturday 15th June from 2pm to 4pm. Tickets are £5 each (children under 10 £2.50), available from Audrey 01268 710757, or Beryl 01245 601298.

The first of our monthly Coffee Mornings to raise funds for the Flower Festival in July will take place on Saturday 13th April 10am - 12 noon (which will have taken place when you read this magazine) and then the second Saturdays in May (11th), June (8th) and July (13th).

Our Flower Festival Weekend this year will be held on Saturday 20th July 2pm - 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 fine weather and people brought their own picnics or purchased from the refreshment tent. It really is a lovely evening of entertainment and many compliments were made on the

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On Sunday 21st July 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 refreshments will be on sale with various stalls outside and the Church will be open at 10am - 12 noon on Monday 22nd July with refreshments available.

This year we have decided to move the Flower Festival from the August Bank Holiday weekend as so many people are away or go out on Bank Holidays and we are hoping that more people will be available to come and see the floral displays.

On Saturday 21st September we will be having a welcome return concert by "Men in Harmony" in the Church at 7.30pm. Tickets £10 including a cheese and wine supper) from Beryl 01245 601298 or Audrey 01268 710757.

On Saturday 28th September we will be holding a Coffee Morning in aid of MacMillan Cancer Care 10am to 1pm at the Church.

Audrey Pegrum MBE



## Dog Training

Our dog club seems to be going along nicely, we have three guest trainers once a month on a Tuesday and this has proved to be very popular.

Two of our members were at Crufts, Sheila was in the national obedience team representing the South & South East with her dog Rumba and she did very well and they came 1st. Congratulations and very well done Sheila.

Fiona was showing her Border Collie Ludo and he won his class, congratulations Fiona & Ludo.

Some of us went to the 'dog day' at Ramsden and found it very interesting, my German Shepherd Dog Elle received some healing, she seemed to enjoy it, she didn't move off the table! There were some nice treats for the dogs.

Our show season is about to start so good luck to everyone who is going to shows this year.

Valerie Dean, Vice Chairman



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# Village Events

# Village Views 1989



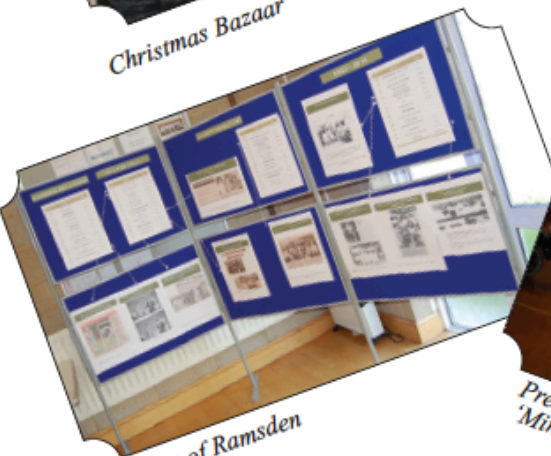
Christmas Bazaar

Christmas Bazaar



Christmas Bazaar

History of Ramsden



History of Ramsden



Presentation of cheque to 'Mind'



Church Road 1989

Church Road 1989



Church Road 1989

Church Road 1989



Church Road 1989

Glebe Road 1989





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## History of Ramsden Exhibition 2019

The 2019 event on the weekend of 23rd/24th February was the second under new management since Isabel announced that the 2017 exhibition would be her last.

On hearing this, a small team of enthusiasts took it over with Isabel's blessing and the intention of taking it into the future.

Isabel and Frank Fisher were once again with us to provide advice and knowledge gained from many years experience. We had a new slideshow and displays, but maintained the tradition of allowing visitors to browse the collection which has been the bedrock of the exhibition over the years, with the added ability to provide copies of most of the collection on request.

The attendance was sadly down on last year, but we still had some new visitors who had interesting stories to tell of their association with the area.

As you may know, most of Isabel's collection has been digitally copied and catalogued, which will allow the creation of a computer-based



## Grahame Farley

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*References Available*



searchable system which will enhance, but not replace, the current format. We are continuing to collect new material, and aim to present this at future exhibitions so that there will be something new to see. If you have anything of historical value that you would be prepared to donate, or allow us to copy, then please email us at [history@ramsdensbellhouse.info](mailto:history@ramsdensbellhouse.info).

We would like to give a big thank you to all those volunteers who helped run the event, from setting up and clearing up, staffing the welcome desk and refreshments, and the provision of the superb home-made cakes, you did us proud - we could not have done it without you.

Next year's exhibition will be on the last weekend of February as 22nd and 23rd February. Come along and delve into the past - you are sure to find something of interest.

History of Ramsden Archive Team



## Horticultural

Our programme of speakers was kicked off this year by Andrew Babicz who spoke about The Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh. Andrew has worked at many famous gardens including RHS Wisley, Kew Gardens and Hampton Court Palace Garden. Lots of members had their first opportunity of the year to renew their membership as well as stock up at the hut. The Show Schedules were also distributed to the members containing all the important dates for 2019.

The topic of our February meeting was on growing and showing daffodils by David Gillam. Some members of our society could remember David as a young boy entering our horticultural shows! It was lovely to have him back to talk to us. It also provided the members with many hints and tips that would come in useful at the Daffodil Mini Show in March. The seed potatoes for our ever popular potato competition were distributed to the members. These should be chitted, planted in their bags and the whole thing should be brought along to our Autumn Show in September for the big weigh in.

Lastly our March monthly meeting included our Daffodil Mini Show. We had an increase on the number of entries from the year before with 20 exhibitors and 90 entries. Peter Hayday won Best in Show for one of his fantastic daffodil exhibits. Thanks to all those who brought daffodils along to the show. Darren Lerigo was our speaker with his talk "What do I do with this space?" Darren

discussed garden design and took inspiration from around the world.

Our two major shows this year are the Summer Show on Saturday 8th of June and our Autumn Show on Saturday 14th September. All are welcome to come along!

Thomas Carpenter, Show Secretary



## Klassical Dream

The late John Coleman lived a long time in Homestead Road, and was a horse racing fan all his life. He died in Summer 2018 having never achieved his ambition of owning a winner at the Cheltenham Festival. In March this year however, his wife Joanne and his three sons were there to see his horse "Klassical Dream" win the "Supreme Novice Hurdle," and is now one of the favourites for next year's Champion Hurdle. "Klassical" is trained by Willie Mullins.

Mark Smith

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## Stephen and Fiona Robertson

This summer, Fi and I are going to be leaving the benefice of Downham with South Hanningfield and Ramsden Bellhouse and moving to Cumbria.

We will be living in the small market town of Brampton, a which is a few miles east of Carlisle.

I have been appointed Mission Community Leader and Team Rector in the Eden, Gelt and Irthington Team Ministry. This is a Church of England position but it also has an ecumenical dimension.

The Mission Community covers a large area that stretches from the Eden valley just east of the M6 all the way across northern Cumbria to the border with Northumberland, and from Hadrian's wall down to villages just inside the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

As Mission Community Leader I will be working ecumenically with colleagues in the Methodist Church, the United Reformed Church and the Salvation Army, as well as the Church of England, to encourage Christians to engage in mission. The churches in Cumbria recognise that Great Britain is increasingly becoming a "post-Christian" nation and that Christians have to evangelise and make new disciples if current trends are to be reversed.

I am very grateful to the parish of Ramsden Bellhouse for all the love and support I have received from people here, and for the experience I have gained over these last 13 years. I am particularly grateful for the friendship and support of the members of Saint Mary's Church (past and present) and the members of Ramsden Bellhouse Baptist Church.

By far the most historical and interesting building in Ramsden Bellhouse is Saint Mary's Church. The whole village owes a debt of gratitude to Beryl Clements, the churchwarden, and the small team of dedicated individuals who work so hard to keep the church open and the churchyard in good order. Please, please, please support them in whatever way you can. What would it say about a village as wealthy as Ramsden Bellhouse if it was to allow its parish church to close?

This summer, as you enjoy the spring and summer weather and the opportunity to be outside again, take time to reflect on the glory of God in creation. You don't have to go as far as Cumbria to see evidence of the amazing creativity of our Creator God. That beauty and splendour is all around you in the gardens of Ramsden Bellhouse.

Fi and I are very much looking forward to our move up north this

summer, and to sharing the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ with the people of Cumbria.

We take with us fond memories of the people of Ramsden Bellhouse, and wish you every blessing in the future.

With all good wishes.

Revd Stephen Robertson, Rector



## Teddies for Tragedies Essex Branch

### Christmas Shoeboxes

I am very pleased to let you know that 121 shoeboxes left me in November destined for Eastern Europe. Boxes went to babies, boys and girls aged 1 - 12 years, teenagers, men and women and contained in most cases a hat, scarf, gloves, toothbrush and toothpaste, soap, face flannel, small toy/game or pack of cards, notebook, pens/pencils, rubber and pencil sharpener, sweets and a selection from a comb, shampoo, shower gel, razors and shaving cream, T-shirts, underwear and socks. Many



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thanks to all who supported this very worthwhile project. Adults and children had a rare moment of happiness in winter poverty through you. I would have been able to send more, but I ran out of shoeboxes and could not get any from the shoe shops. Ladies, if you buy shoes during the year please let me have the boxes if you don't want them.

Over the winter we have been concentrating more on blankets and many have been sent to Greece for refugees and to Zambia. Only 360 teddies have gone to Zambia during the winter together with bibles, bible notes, toiletry boxes and hats. Our total number of teddies distributed now stands at 295,412 to 55 countries. Enjoy your summer. God Bless.

Audrey Pegrum MBE Essex Branch Organiser



## **Your Baptist Church in the Village**

Well spring seemed to arrive with lovely warm sunshine, and then the weather quickly changed to wind and rain. We hope that spring is around the corner.

We at RBBC are planning our summer events beginning with a concert on Saturday evening May 11th, which sees the return of the popular Trilogy singers. The theme of the evening will be "A Night at the Movies" Please contact Marion Jerrom on 01268 710287 for ticket information.

Our Monday Morning Coffee Break continues, 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. Our other regular is the Drop in Breakfast, held on the first Saturday of each 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.

We at RBBC will be carrying out structural repair work to the north wall of our church in the near future. The hope is that this will commence in approximately 4-6 weeks time.

Please feel free to read more about RBBC in our church Review 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

## **Hot Swiss Trifle**

### **Ingredients:**

*Serves 4*

- 1 Jam swiss roll
- 1 can of apricots 420g (drained)
- 2 tablespoons of custard powder
- 2 eggs separated
- 1 tablespoon of sugar
- 1 pint of milk
- 4oz caster sugar
- 1oz blanched almonds (optional)

1. Slice the Swiss roll and arrange with the apricots in a 1½ pint fire proof dish
2. Blend the custard powder, egg yolks and sugar together with a little of the milk
3. Heat the rest of the milk and when nearly boiling stir into the mixed custard
4. Return the mixture to the pan and bring to the boil stirring continuously and when thick pour over the apricots
5. Whisk the egg whites until stiff and fold in caster sugar
6. Pile meringue on top of the custard and stud with the blanched almonds if using
7. Bake gas mark 4, 350 F, 180 C for about 20 minutes or until the meringue is nicely golden

This is quite an old fashioned recipe and is delicious.

Joan Wright



## Line Dancing

Our club members are still enjoying our weekly sessions on Mondays 2.30 pm until 3.30 except Bank Holidays. We have had a few new ladies join us but not mentioned before we do have gentlemen dancers so if there are any retired gentlemen reading this and would like to spend an enjoyable hour why not come and join us.

## Christmas Bazaar 1st December 2018

Father Christmas never fails to visit our Christmas Bazaar, he arrived on time and the children were soon lining up outside his Grotto to put in their requests for Christmas and have their photographs taken with Father Christmas. We had lots of new stalls this year but still plenty of fun stalls for the children, festive drinks, mince pies and light refreshment were also available. Every year we have a lucky programme purchased on entry 50p with a chance to win a hamper worth £50.00. Please come and support the Bazaar this year, any profit made goes to the Village Hall Charity no. 10025468.

## Music Festival 22nd June 2019

The Music Festival is taking place once again for the 5th year running. The gates open at 2.30 pm and the first act appears at 4pm Keeley Smith a solo singer who has appeared at the London Palladium and she will be covering songs sung by Adele, Dusty and Connie Francis. At 5.30pm until 7.15 pm Redriffe a soft rock band promising to get everyone on their feet. Headlining 7.30 until 9pm Scot Borley performs as Maximum Robbie, currently the UK's hottest Robbie Williams tribute act. 9.30 pm 11.15 pm - Andre Dennison joins us once again, supper talented sax player joined by chart topping Robina Johnson on vocals who's track Your Moving Too Fast got to no. 1. Our resident dj will bring us up to midnight with his fabulous laser show. The tickets this year will be £15. children £10, 5 and under free. With burgers, hot dogs, chips, coffee tea, soft drinks to purchase from an outside burger van, retro ice cream van, sweet cart, festival goodies and face painting will be available. A wonderful afternoon and evenings entertainment to remember. To order or purchase tickets please ring Abby 07917 003695 or Ann 01268 710250 07756 996915. Look forward to seeing everyone.

Ann Wellborne.  
Social Secretary

## Personal Page

*Congratulations to:*

**Irene Linnell** from Ramsden Bellhouse Bowls Club on her 90th birthday, and still bowling a winning bowl!

**Daljit and Harpal** of Orchard Avenue on the birth of their grandson **Rai Singh Madhray**, whose parents are **Amar** and **Rav** on 15th December 2108.

**Terry Manning** from Ramsden Bellhouse Bowls Club on his 80th birthday - still bowling some winners!

**Kay & Peter Debenham** of Glebe Road on the birth of a granddaughter **Willow Roberta Elsie** whose parents are **Robert** and **Charlotte**, on 4th February 2109.

**Ernie Skinner** on his 70th birthday in March. Having lived all his life in our Village, he can tell you a lot about Ramsden, especially about farming.

*In Memory of:*

**Rita Smith** of Church Road who died on November 11th 2018. She was an active member of the Village Hall, Bowls Club, Horticultural and at one time Dogs and WI. In the past she was our Post Lady and Caretaker of the Village Hall. Our sympathies go out to Neil and the family.

*Thank you to the many people who have supported me so sympathetically on the deaths of my sister Dorothy aged 100, and a week later my sister Winifred aged 98. Your support has been a great comfort to me.*

- Isabel Johnson

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

**PLEASE KEEP OUR VILLAGE TIDY**



## **I Can Hear The Sound of Music**

Adam McDonald was a hill farmer who worked in the English Lake District. He managed a farm for the National Trust who had been given the land by Beatrix Potter when she died in 1943 aged 77. Beatrix was born in South Kensington in 1866 but when in 1905 the sale of her Peter Rabbit books had become very popular and were selling well she moved to the Lake District and took an interest in the countryside and farming.

Adam's main interest was the large flock of Herdwick Sheep the traditional Lake District sheep that are very strong and live high in the hills and the fells during the summer months. During the winter they would be brought down to the lowlands and graze not far from the Hill Top Farm that had been the home of Beatrix Potter and is now a museum dedicated to her books and her farming interests.

Spring had now arrived and it was time to move the sheep up into the hills Adam got his quad bike out from the barn and his two faithful collie dogs Meg and Chip jumped on board and went to the fields that contained the sheep. As the flock were being moved to higher pastures the birds would be disturbed. Flocks of lapwing would fly up filling the sky with their black and white wings. Skylarks would rise up singing and sometimes you could hear the cry of the curlew. This was all music to the ears of the lonely farmer.

As they moved the sheep Adam and his two companions climbed higher into the hills. He stopped in his tracks and said to his dogs I can hear the sound of music. High up in the mountains could be heard bars of light classical music.

With the sheep all settled Adam returned to his farm. Ruth the chubby farmer's wife dressed in a check shirt and jeans greeted him with a hug and a kiss. Very soon she had two plates of lamb stew on the farmhouse kitchen table. Over dinner he told his wife how up in the hills he had heard the classical music. Ruth laughed and joked that he should wear a hat as he had probably got too much sun! Adam said that one day soon he would return to the same spot on the same day of the week and would listen out for the music.

After three weeks he decided it was time to check his flock to see how they were doing in their new surroundings. When along with his two dogs he got onto the hills he stopped for he could hear the orchestral music once again, the same tunes as before. Going further up into the hills he came to a plateau and there sitting on rocks was a small gathering of

musicians with a variety of musical instruments. Sheep were all around them listening to the music. The orchestra's leader came forward and explained that they had come from Windermere and were practicing for a national competition. How they got there each week remains a mystery.

As they played the hills became alive with the sound of music.

Mike Craig



## **Neighbourhood Watch**

Our vision is that of a caring society that is focused on trust and respect in which people are safe from crime and enjoy a good quality of life. Neighbourhood watch is about making sure that fewer people feel afraid, vulnerable or isolated in the place where they live. Neighbourhood watch is not about being nosy or spying on your neighbours it's about being aware of your surroundings, and taking that little bit extra care, of your property windows, doors, cars, sheds, garages) making them secure, and in this day and age cyber crime and scams. Don't put on Facebook you are off on holiday, wait till you're back to post pictures.



## **Bellhouse Preschool**

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Christine Darken co-ordinator for above



## Ramsden Bellhouse Website

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

If you really want to see at a glance what is going on in Ramsden Bellhouse, then take a look at the Ramsden Bellhouse website, where you will find an easy to use and most comprehensive guide of 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, together with photos of the various events throughout the years.

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: [mailing@ramsdenbellhouse.info](mailto:mailing@ramsdenbellhouse.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](http://www.facebook.com) and search for Ramsden Bellhouse Village Hall.

Barbara Stanton

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

## Fun Whist

Fun Whist takes place on the second Saturday of the month at 7-15pm in the Village Hall. All are welcome and being 'Fun' Whist means . . . come and have a go!

Even if you haven't played Whist recently or not at all but know your hearts from your clubs, come along and meet some of your neighbours.

A special welcome to those who may have recently moved into the Village and would like to gently meet up with some of the locals.

The cost for the evening is £3.00 which includes a cup of tea or coffee, plenty of chat and a raffle and, of course, a pleasant game of cards.

Angela Hodivala



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## “Words of Wisdom”

As I write this I look out of my study window and see dark clouds above and the trees bending over in almost gale force winds. There is a storm brewing. It is so hard to believe that just a couple of weeks ago at the end of February I walked along Southend Sea Front and saw the beach crowded with people enjoying the amazing warm weather with even the deck chairs available for hire. Of course it soon all changed and from the storm today, no doubt it will change again. Change is a fact of life. Sometimes we relish change, sometimes we fear it. Today is also the day of the "meaningful vote" in Parliament about the possible Brexit deal. As I write the vote hasn't yet been taken but whatever the outcome some things will inevitably change.

A few weeks ago it was Easter. Easter means many things but perhaps above all it is essentially about change. On Palm Sunday Jesus rode into Jerusalem and the people came out to welcome him and honour Him. A week later it all changed as the people cried out for Him to be crucified. Hours later He hung on a cross and died. Three days later the tomb where He had been laid was empty, the stone guarding it rolled away. He now had risen from the dead. He appeared to His followers and many others and, having seen Him alive and having witnessed the miracle, they realised that everything had changed. From there they went out and changed the world. What amazing changes - who could have predicted them? And these changes also mean that we can change. That is the message of Easter. We don't have to feel guilty, we don't have to struggle with fear and anxiety, we don't have to fear rejection and isolation. We don't even have to fear death. Easter changed everything. The death and Resurrection of Jesus was the turning point of history and when we put our trust and faith in Him we experience the changes that were accomplished for us on that first Easter. Because of it I changed, and so can you.

Jim Hamilton



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## NORMAL WEEKLY PATTERN OF ACTIVITIES:

Sunday	10.00 a.m. - 12 noon	RB Table Tennis	(NH)
	2.00 - 6.00 p.m.	Boxer Dogs (3rd Sunday of month)	(OH)
	7.30 - 10.30 p.m.	Ballroom Dancing	(OH)
Monday	9.00 a.m. - 2.00 p.m.	Pre-School (except school holidays)	(OH)
	9.30 a.m. - 1.30 p.m.	Sewing Group	(NH)
	7.15 - 10.15 p.m.	Dog Training (except 3rd Monday of month)	(OH)
	7.30 - 10.00 p.m.	RB Short Mat Bowls	(NH)
	8.00 - 10.00 p.m.	Horticulture (3rd Monday of month)	(OH)
	9.00 a.m. - 2.00 p.m.	Pre-School (except school holidays)	(OH)
Tuesday	10.30 a.m. - 12 noon	Yoga	(NH)
	4.30 - 5.30 p.m.	Mini Tennis	(NH)
	7.30 - 10.30 p.m.	Dog Training	(OH)
	7.30 - 10.00 p.m. RB	Short Mat Bowls	(NH)
Wednesday	9.00 a.m. - 2.00 p.m.	Pre-School (except school holidays)	(OH)
	10.00 a.m. - 12.30pm	RB Short Mat Bowls	(NH)
	4.00 - 6.00 p.m.	Karate / Kick Boxing	(NH)
	5.45 - 7.15 p.m.	Cubs	(OH)
	7.30 - 9.30 p.m.	Scouts	(OH)
	7.00 - 10.00 p.m.	Brentwood Table Tennis League	(NH)
Thursday	9.00 a.m. - 2.00 p.m.	Pre-School (except school holidays)	(OH)
	10.00 a.m. - 12 noon	Tai Chi	(NH)
	7.00 - 10.00 p.m.	Sansuine Short Mat Bowls	(NH)
	7.30 - 9.30 p.m.	Medau	(OH)
Friday	9.00 a.m. - 2.00 p.m.	Pre-School (except school holidays)	(OH)
	1.30 - 4.30 p.m.	RB Short Mat Bowls	(NH)
	We have a Badminton Court laid out with posts and a net which can be hired most Friday Evenings		
Saturday	9.00 a.m. - 4.30 p.m.	Tutoring Group	Committee Room
	7.15 - 10.00 p.m.	Fun Whist Drive (2nd Saturday of month)	(OH)

New Hall (NH) Old Hall (OH)

## Village Events

### MAY

<b>Saturday 11th</b>	Coffee Morning	10am - Midday	St Mary's Church
<b>Saturday 11th</b>	Fun Whist	7.15pm	Village Hall

### JUNE

<b>Saturday 8th</b>	Crunch	9.00am - Midday	Village Hall
<b>Saturday 8th</b>	Coffee Morning	10.00am - Midday	St Mary's Church
<b>Saturday 8th</b>	Horticultural Summer Show	2.00pm - 3.30pm	Village Hall
<b>Saturday 8th</b>	Fun Whist	7.15pm	Village Hall
<b>Saturday 15th</b>	Strawberry Tea	2.00pm - 4.00pm	Village Hall
	<i>Tickets from 710757</i>		
<b>Saturday 22nd</b>	Music Festival open 2.30pm	4.00pm - Midnight	Village Hall

### JULY

<b>Saturday 13th</b>	Coffee Morning	10am - Midday	St Mary's Church
<b>Saturday 13th</b>	Fun Whist	7.15pm	Village Hall
<b>Saturday 20th</b>	Flower Festival	2.00pm - 5.00pm	St Mary's Church
<b>Saturday 20th</b>	Big Band Concert	Open at 5.00pm	St Mary's Church
	<i>Tickets from 710757</i>		
<b>Sunday 21st</b>	Flower Festival	11.00am - 4.00pm	St Mary's Church
<b>Sunday 21st</b>	Songs of Praise	4.00pm	St Mary's Church
<b>Monday 22nd</b>	Flower Festival	10.00am - Midday	St Mary's Church

### AUGUST

<b>Saturday 10th</b>	Fun Whist	7.15pm	Village Hall
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### SEPTEMBER

<b>Saturday 14th</b>	Horticultural Autumn Show	2.00pm - 3.30pm	Village Hall
<b>Saturday 14th</b>	Fun Whist	7.15pm	Village Hall
<b>Saturday 21st</b>	"Men in Harmony" Concert	7.30pm	St Mary's Church
	<i>Tickets from 710757</i>		
<b>Saturday 28th</b>	McMillan Coffee Morning	10am - 1.00pm	St Mary's Church

### OCTOBER

<b>Saturday 12th</b>	Fun Whist	7.15pm	Village Hall
<b>Friday 25th</b>	"Murder Mystery Evening"	7.30pm	Village Hall

### NOVEMBER

<b>Friday 8th</b>	Charity Beetle Drive	7.30pm	Village Hall
<b>Saturday 9th</b>	Fun Whist	7.15pm	Village Hall
<b>Sunday 10th</b>	Remembrance Service	10.45am	Village Hall



## Village Directory

<b>Village Hall</b>	Chairman	- Clive Jeffree	710559
	Booking Secretary	- Audrey Pegrum	01268 710757
	Minutes Secretary	- Hilary Simpson	01268 711118
	Treasurer	- Derek Swan	710478
	Social Secretary	- Ann Wellborne	710250
<b>Magazine</b>	Editor	- Isabel Johnson	710428
	Advertising	- Isabel Johnson	710428
<b>Dog Training</b>	Monday (except 3rd in month)		
	7.15pm - 10pm	- Sandy Black	01268 734357
<b>St Mary's Church</b>	Church Warden	- Beryl Clements	01245 601298
<b>Horticultural</b>	3rd Monday in the month except July, August and December	- Phillippa Jenkinson	01268 733594
	Ladies Medau	Thursday 8pm - Veronica Greenwood	01702 559914
<b>Cubs</b>	Wed 5.45pm - 7.15pm	- Sue Walter	sue.walter1@icloud.com
<b>Scouts</b>	Wed 7.30pm - 9.30pm	- Chris Maker	01277 652337
	except 2nd Wed in month		
<b>Baptist Church</b>	Val Rook		01277 632006
<b>Bowls</b>	Mon 7.30pm, Tues 7.30pm,		
	Wed 10am, Fri 1.30pm	- Hilary Simpson	01268 711118
<b>Dancing Club</b>	Every Sunday 7.45pm - 10.30pm		
	General Dancing	- Barry Gardiner	07702 233898
<b>Whist Drive</b>	Roy Richards (see Village Events)		710669
<b>Line Dancing</b>	Every Monday 2.30pm - 3.30pm	Ken Dobson	710771
<b>Bellhouse Preschool</b>	Mon to Fri 9.30am - 2.00pm		07881 448686
<b>Website</b>	www.ramsdenbellhouse.info		
<b>Ramsden Parish Council</b>	Georgina Bassett		07469 702826

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