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Village Magazine Summer 2010



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A Word from the Editor

Hopefully when you read this, Spring will be with us and Summer on the way. The Winter has been long and cold, but I don't need to tell you this.

Regarding Village matters could I ask through this editorial, if SOMEONE could do something about the two areas of Church Road that still get flooded. The one just past St Mary's Church is lethal to pedestrians. I have had dirty water showered over my head running through my hair and down my face from inconsiderate drivers driving at speed. Further down the road at the top of the hill, another flood of water lies in the road. I have done a lot of complaining, but am told that Essex Water says it's not their water. So whose is it? Please someone do something about it. If science can put a man on the moon and invent computers, can they not deal with a little flood. Has anyone heard of ditches?

Again I must praise all the people who worked so hard to run Village Events, giving their time so willingly. Without them we would indeed be a "sleepy village" Please support our local events.

I would like to have a greater variety of pictures on the middle pages. Please could sections etc with photos of their activities contact me with a view to having more comprehensive collection of pictures. Also I am happy to add your entries to the Personal Page. I can put a few more adverts in black and white and I would love to have some letters and original articles to publish.

Finally, thanks to all those who helped in the production and delivery of this magazine. Copy for the next one by September 20th

Isabel Johnson

PLEASE KEEP OUR VILLAGE TIDY

Advertising Rates

Coloured Half pages - limited	£30.00
Black & White (Mono) Half Pages	£20.00
Black & White (Mono) Quarter Pages	£12.00

Chairman's Report

I hope that by the time you are reading this report the winter is well behind us and the cold frosts have started to warm up.

Since my last report we have had the Christmas Bazaar, A.G.M. and the History of Ramsden.

The Bazaar raised just over £1,100 towards the running of the Village Hall. There were a large variety of stalls for the adults at the Bazaar with a Fancy Dress Competition and Father Christmas in his Grotto especially for the children.

In January we held our annual A.G.M. where the attendance was the highest we have had for many years, a thank you to all for turning up. During the meeting the Committee was voted in for a further year. Once the usual reports were complete, I had the great pleasure of presenting a

charity cheque to Mr. Robert Green of the Alzheimers Society for £5,057.63p. This is the largest cheque we have ever presented since the Canvey Island Flood, when we first started raising money for charity. My thanks must go out to all who helped to raise such a large amount. Well done all.

My next job at the A.G.M., which also gave me much pleasure was the presentations to Mrs. Joan Kelly and Mrs. Celia Rogers on their retirement from the Committee, of a bouquet of flowers and a framed photograph to each as a memento for the long service and effort that they put into the Ramsden Bellhouse Village Hall.

The meeting ended with a vote for this years charity, with the winner being the Motor-Neuron Society.

The final event of the Winter was the History of Ramsden Exhibition. I must thank Isabel Johnson, Frank Fisher and their band of helpers for their efforts at this event.

A bit of very good news the Village Hall has received, is a grant from the Essex Community Initiative Fund 2009/10 for £10,000 towards the cost of renovating the old hall and toilets.

This work will be taking place over the summer period.

Clive Jeffree -Chairman, Ramsden Bellhouse Village Hall
chairman@ramsdensbellhouse.info

Village Fun Day June 26th

CRAYS HILL MEMORIAL DESIGN

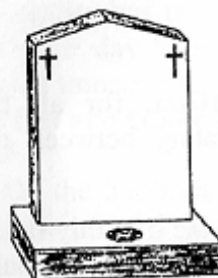
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St Mary's Church

Rector: Rev Stephen Robertson, The Rectory, Castledon Road, Downham
01268 710370

Services: 1st Sunday: Evening Prayer 6.30pm
2nd Sunday: Holy Communion, 9.30am
3rd Sunday: Holy communion 6.30pm
4th Sunday: Family Service, 10.30am
5th Sunday: Joint Holy Communion, 10am, for all the churches in the group, rotating between the churches

Any variations to the above pattern can be seen in the monthly list of services displayed outside the Church and in both foyers at the Village Hall.

At the time of writing the new annexe at the Church, containing two toilets (one for disabled users) a small kitchen and a new boiler to improve (hopefully) the heating of the Church, and with direct access from the church via a new doorway, is nearing completion. More details are included in the "Friends of St Mary's" article elsewhere in this issue.

As usual, St Mary's joined with the Baptist Church and the Scouts and Cubs for the Annual Remembrance Sunday Service at the Village Hall in November, which attracted the usual good attendance, the collection of £218.50 was donated to BLESMA. Other joint services with the Baptist Church took place in February and on Palm Sunday, and further ones have been arranged for 11th July at St Mary's and 17th October at the Baptist Church, both at 10.30am

Members of St Mary's and friends went Carol Singing in Glebe Road and Homestead Road on 10th December and collected £180 which was donated to the Children's Society.


Social and Fund Raising events planned for this year are:

Saturday 13th July - St Mary's **Garden Party**, 2 to 5pm at Isabel's Bramhill, Orchard Avenue. Admission £2.50 per person, including tea / coffee and cake; various stalls and games. All welcome.

Saturday to Bank Holiday Monday, 28th to 30th August, **Flower Festival** at St Mary's Church.

Saturday 6th November **Autumn Fair**, 11am to 2.30pm at the Village Hall.

More details of the Spring and Autumn Fairs and Flower Festival will be given in house to house leaflets nearer to these events.



The Ship
Stock Road, West Hanningfield
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Jackie Payne has recently taken over as Licensee of 'The Ship' and the main aim for both myself and my staff is to serve freshly prepared food using local produce and suppliers to create dishes of a very high standard. We are a family run pub serving well kept Real Ales, Fine Wines and a selection of Draught and Bottled Beers. Welcoming children with their own menu choices again using only fresh ingredients, with an extensive play area and gardens to ensure they feel as welcome as the adults.

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Sunday 12 noon - 6pm

Our Quiz Night last November raised £510 for the Village Hall Charity effort on behalf of Alzheimer's Research and the one in February raised £429 for St Mary's Church funds. The April Quiz for Village Hall funds falls between writing and reading of this article, but there's still the Charity Quiz to come on 30th November. These Quiz Nights are well supported by a regular clientele, but there's always room for more teams. For further details please ring me on 01268 710757. Alan Pegrum

♦♦♦♦♦ Bus Timetable

Since 30th November, the route of the NIBS service 237 has been changed to serve the Festival Leisure Park at Basildon. It no longer runs through Noak Bridge Village, but goes straight up Wash Road. It then runs through the Pippis Hill Retail Park, with one stop close to ASDA and another near B&Q. After serving the Festival Leisure Park, it makes use of the new bus only link into Ghyllgrove to reach the Bus Station and then on to the Hospital. It thus now serves the Bus Station in both directions. Times from Ramsden towards Basildon remain unchanged, but are a few minutes later in the opposite direction.

Bygone Years



View from Railway Bridge about 1930



Ballroom Dancing

The Ballroom Club has had an extremely busy year to date, with one celebration after another. On Sunday 7th March, twenty-five members turned up to celebrate the Club's 20th Anniversary, and amongst those present were eight founder members with plenty to talk about from bygone days.

Prior to this celebration, special evenings had also been arranged, so far this year, for a 65th Birthday, a Silver Wedding, Valentine and Burns Night and an Easter Bonnet parade for both men and women.

I think it is true to say that after going through a lean spell at one stage, the Ballroom Club is currently enjoying a very successful period. However, we can always make room for a few more dancers should anyone wish to come along. To make an enquiry ring Joan on 01268 710260.

Charlie Beales (Ballroom Rep)

Sienna^x

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Horticulture

We had a good AGM with Christmas buffet at the end of 2009 with some new ideas put forward to follow up. Have you seen our new sign for the hut, thanks to Angela and Rusi for instigating it.

Ken has restocked so please give the hut a visit. Our first meeting in January was about the Laindon Nature Reserve, a very informative talk, Joan may arrange a guided walk for us all in the Summer. In February growing vegetables was the subject, raised beds and rotation still seems to be the answer to success.

The annual Inter Society Quiz was also in February, Laindon being the winners. I am just wondering how we will do with Daffodils at our Spring Show, the weather has been so cold, we do have the new childrens classes to look forward to in all three shows. With 6 good speakers, a garden visit and the Harvest Supper still to come we should have a good year, why not join us? We meet on the 3rd Monday of the month at 8.00pm, information on the board prior to each meeting

Marion Shillum

From the Baptist Church Minister

If I told you (with a straight face) that we had a little group of fairies living behind the Baptist church premises, I doubt that many of you would believe me. Equally, if I said that the moon was really made of green cheese, it's unlikely that you would believe that either. (I can't see why though -sounds reasonable to me...)

Well, two very unlikely statements, almost, we might say, verging on the ridiculous. Quite rightly, any sane person would reject them both. Only the gullible or a fool would believe rubbish like that.

Recently, the Easter festival was celebrated at our two churches in Ramsden Bellhouse and while you may not have attended the Easter Day services, it's quite possible that you enjoyed something of the traditional Easter egg.

But what is the actual reason for Easter? It's certainly not chocolate eggs nor even hot cross buns. Rather, as God's church we celebrate the raising of Jesus Christ from the dead.

Now think about that for a moment. Isn't that where I started this article? With totally unbelievable statements? Now here is another one - a man being raised from the dead. How unlikely is that?

If you find that hard to believe then you are in good company because when the statement was first made on that first Easter Day (Luke 24: 1-8) even Jesus' friends didn't believe it -and frankly, I don't blame them. I don't think I would have believed it either. But later on Jesus himself appears to them and they realise the truth of the matter. Jesus ~ alive and was raised from the dead.

Well, so far, so good I suppose. But, there was one of Jesus' friends who had missed all the action -Thomas. Often today we call him 'Doubting Thomas' which I suppose is a bit unfair. Thomas could not - and would not -believe because he hadn't seen the risen Jesus and so he hangs on -'I just cannot believe' he says.

But I admire Thomas. Just because he can't believe this unbelievable story of resurrection, he hasn't totally closed his mind to it and importantly he doesn't cut himself off from the other disciples. Neither do they push him out of their little circle because of it. Rather they all stay together for mutual support and to help Thomas through his difficulty.

And I think this is important for us all. We need never be afraid of honest doubts. The church is where people can be free to air their doubts and then to be helped towards the answers they seek.

Medcalfs

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Ultimately Thomas is confronted by the risen Christ in the company of his friends and he breaks down with his confession of faith: 'My Lord and my God' (John 20:28)

Unbelief is no way to live a life and we all need something more than doubt to live on. Don't you think it's at least worth a try?

Geoffrey Griggs, Minister.



ADVERT

Is there anybody who would be willing to service our Village Web Site.

We have a Web Site set up but need somebody to update and keep it up to date.

If interested, please apply to :-
chairman@ramsdenbellhouse.info

Teddies for Tragedies Essex Branch

Despite the severe weather over the winter 4062 teddies still managed to travel to Romania, Zambia, Kosovo and Serbia now making a grand total of 258,896 distributed since 1995.



The March convoy to Kosovo has just left. A lorry took 1200 teddies, 250 clowns, 1124 margarine boxes filled with toiletries, 23 sacks of new knitted blankets, 9 sacks new knitted jumpers, cardigans, hats etc, 3 sacks disposable nappies, 2 large boxes of shampoo, Sudocrem and soap, a baby's crib, Moses basket and various baby equipment, one

fur coat and sweets. I breathed a sigh of relief when I waved the lorry off only to get a call two days later to say another was going into 10 primary schools and could they have 1200 teddies and anything else I could give them especially children's shoes. Apparently children are not allowed in school unless they have a pair of shoes to wear. I only had one day to get organised but managed to get several pairs of shoes, 800 teddies were ready to go, but with Alan's help I got another 400 packed, together with 30 clowns. I then found them 700 pencils, coloured pencils, rubbers, pencil sharpeners and a large quantity of A4 lined paper to add to the stationery they already had on the lorry. Schools really struggle with very little equipment so it was good to help in this way. I was told that in 10 primary schools there were 5,000 children.

Thank you everyone who has been saving me their 500gr. marg boxes and often filling them with soap etc. In October we sent 808 and this time 1124 boxes which is marvellous. I have just been given a photograph of the Minister of Health and Social Welfare for Kosovo personally giving out one of our toiletry boxes!

Having agonised whether I should hold my Drop-in Day on 12th January because of the inclement weather, I decided to go ahead and am pleased to say it was a great success. The final total after some generous donations was £1,065 which is being used to install an improved sound system in St Mary's Church and the balance going to World Child India where they are endeavouring to purchase some land so that the people in

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the Home can grow their own vegetables and any surplus can be sold to help with running costs. Thank you to all who helped and supported me on this day.

In the last magazine I mentioned that 110 shoeboxes had gone to Blythwood Care and I am pleased to say that the final total was 400 being distributed in Eastern Europe, India and Pakistan. These boxes are often the only present a child receives at Christmas so many thanks to all who helped make a child's Christmas.

Enjoy the summer. God bless.

Audrey Pegrum MBE
Essex Branch Organiser



History of Ramsden

The Exhibition started off on Saturday 27th February with a great show of enthusiasm. The Hall filled rapidly and the interest was very evident. It may have been the best Saturday afternoon attendance since the Exhibition started some 20 years ago.

Since those days, a whole generation of old Ramsdonian visitors from all over the country have passed on. But still the numbers remain fairly the same. This is encouraging, as it means the interest is there with a new generation, and it is the interest that is important. Having said that, it would seem from the visitor's book, that more people came from outside Ramsden Bellhouse than came from residents. Interesting?

Sunday however brought forth heavy rain, and attendance was slow, but picked up fairly well in the afternoon. Frank and I were rarely without interested people, questioning, discussing and bringing new information. I rate it as a very successful experience, oh and by the way £344.14p was handed over to Village Hall Funds from donations and sale of refreshments.

None of this would be possible without the help of many wonderful friends too many to name, and to them I send heartfelt thanks and appreciation.

Isabel Johnson



Apple Amber

1 lb apples (weighed after peeling)

4 oz butter

sugar to taste

1 lemon

2 eggs separated

large cut loaf (thick slice) cut into strips approximately 1½ in wide and sufficient to line the pie dish, 8 - 10 slices crusts removed.

Peel core and slice apples. Put them with 2 oz of the butter and a very little water into a saucepan and cook until tender. Sweeten to taste. Beat until smooth. Add grated lemon rind and juice and the egg yolks.

Melt the remaining butter in a small basin and soak the strips of bread in the butter and line the base and sides of the dish. Pour in the apple mixture. Bake in a moderately hot oven (425F Gas 7 220 C) for approximately 30 mins until the bread is Golden and the filling set.

Whisk the egg whites very stiffly and fold in 2 oz sugar. Pile the meringue on top of the apple filling and dredge with caster sugar. Bake in a cool oven (325 F Gas 3 170 C) until the meringue is crisp to the touch and lightly coloured. Serve hot or cold.

It is possible more melted butter will be required for soaking the bread.

Joan Wright

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Baptist Church

Church Services: Every Sunday at 10.30am (Communion on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month). A Bible Study alternates with a Prayer Meeting on Wednesday at 8.00 pm. An informal "Drop In" held in the Church Hall every Monday from 10.30am to 12 noon for coffee or tea and a chat.

Our last article was in the Winter magazine. In the last six months we have had a new roof on the church and various decorations and refurbishment within. None of the work hindered our services or other activities of the church.

On the 4th October we held our Harvest festival, which was also a Parade service. The church was decorated for the service and the front of the church was filled with various vegetables, and other produce. Our pastor Geoff, took the service and got the scouts involved in some drama based around the story of the ten lepers that Jesus healed and the one who came back to thank him. The service was very enjoyable including some acting by the scouts.

On the 13th December we held our Carols by Candlelight service. The church had been beautifully decorated for the occasion. On the afternoon the church was packed out and several people had to stand! The service was a series of well-known readings and carols. Geoff our Pastor preached the sermon, in which he reflected on the characters contained in the Christmas story and the fact that we know nothing of them after the birth of Christ. The service was a great success and was attended by over one hundred people. It challenged us as individuals, as to our response to the coming of Jesus into this world. Afterward the service many enjoyed the variety of food and drinks provided in the church hall. On Christmas morning we held a forty-five minute service at 10.30am.

In February we held our Annual General Meeting which received reports from various deacons and others concerning the work of the church during 2009. The final report was from our Pastor. During the meeting we also voted to appoint officers and deacons for the current year. We are now continuing to plan new activities for this year as well as our usual services.

At the beginning of Lent, we had a joint service with St Mary's at the Baptist church. Joan Clutterbuck preached the sermon and reminded us that the Lenten period was a good time to prepare ourselves for the Easter Holy Week. We have several joint services with St Mary's during the year and on these occasions it is always good to worship our Lord together. By

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the time you read this we will have held a joint service at St Mary's on Palm Sunday and then a Good Friday service at our church on the 2nd April. The celebration of Christ's resurrection will have taken place on Easter Sunday morning. Another event that will have passed by between writing this and you reading it will be our "Continental Breakfast" on the 1st May. No doubt we will have seen some of you there.

On the morning of the 27th June we will be holding our church anniversary service and a Garden Party in the afternoon. Please come along and enjoy what is on offer. Last years' party was a success; we hope this year will be even better, weather permitting!

All our services and events are to encourage people to consider the Christian faith. If you do require further details of any service or event please do not hesitate to enquire, or why not come and see what we do one Sunday? Our Sunday service lasts usually around one hour. We always offer refreshments afterwards.

Roger Newton, Church Secretary

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Charity 2009-2010**

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TOTAL	5057.63	2757.40

This is a correction of the Charity Account distributed at the Village Hall AGM.

Derek Swan



Eric Knows It All

I was having trouble with my computer. So I called Eric, the 11 year old next door whose bedroom looks like Mission Control and asked him to come over. Eric clicked a couple of buttons and solved the problem.

As he was walking away I called after him, 'So, what was wrong? He replied, it was an ID ten T error.' I didn't want to appear stupid, but nonetheless inquired, 'An ID ten T error? What's that? In case I need to fix it again.' Eric grinned ... 'Haven't you ever heard of an ID ten T error before/

'No, I replied. 'Write it down,' he said 'and I think you'll figure it out.' So I wrote down **ID10T** I use to like Eric, *the little bastard*.

Submitted from Email by Roy Richards

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WEDDING FLOWERS

Bowls

With the "friendlies" and league matches there always seems to be a match arranged. We are doing very well with our matches and the future looks good. When playing away games it is surprising how different other clubs mats are, some very slow, some like ice rinks. It usually takes several "ends" to appreciate the mats. What is nice is the clubs put on a really lovely buffet.

Then Christmas arrived with lots of snow. The club had a very enjoyable social evening with lots of food arranged by Jackie, Barbara and Angela. A quiz was organised by Brian, our Chairman. The finale of the evening was our singer, Keilley, who not only sung brilliantly but got everyone up dancing.

The AGM held in February was well attended. Was it for the lovely spread of cheese, biscuits and wine or to the introduction of the new committee... Brian Smith our chairman for seven years, a great leader and speaker has decided to give someone else that envious position. Sylvia Ealham our treasurer and welfare officer and factotum of many titles has also decided to step down, she will be sorely missed from those positions although will be staying within the club. Tony Ealham has stepped down also having given a lot of dedicated time to the club with organising the many games, both friendly and league matches. Best wishes to Tony who is now organising a club near Brentwood. He will also be sorely missed.

Our new Chairman, is Norman Cornwell with Barbara, Kay, Peter, Sue, John, Angela, Rusi, Roy and Isabel supporting him.

The twenty-first birthday of the club was celebrated at The Ivory Rooms in Billericay with a great meal. It was good to celebrate the occasion.

We have over 50 members all enjoying playing bowls and the interesting social life attached to the club. A group of members went for a weekend in Chester in April, so it is not "just bowls" at the club.

Should any newcomers be interested they should contact Kay, our secretary. Telephone number at back of book.

Carol Finn

Art Show August 28th, 29th & 30th

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The Baptist Church prepares for Carols by Candle light

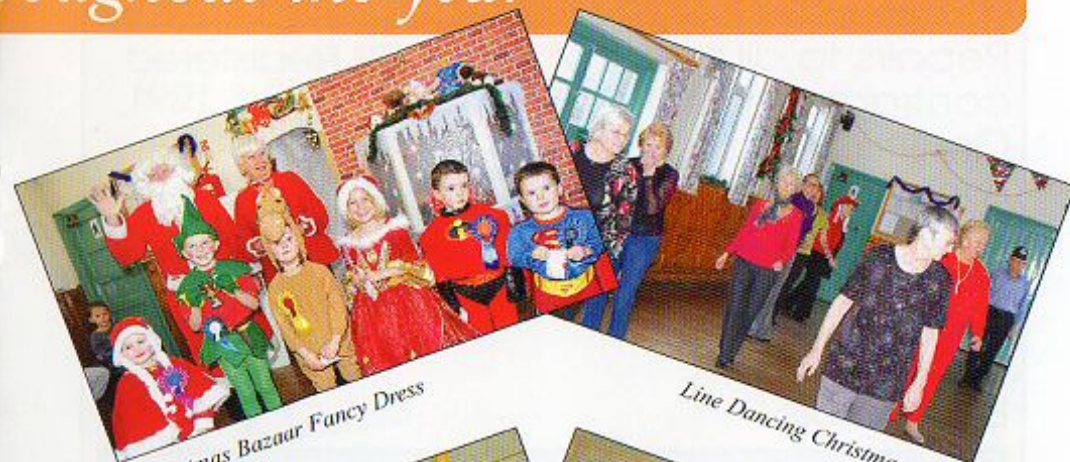
Horticultural Stall at the Christmas Bazaar



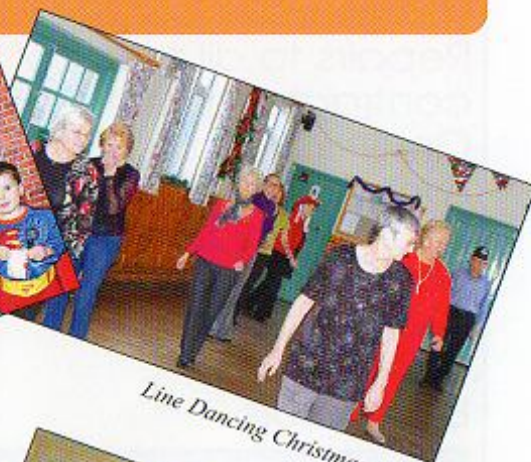
Carol & Pauline sell mince pies and mulled wine



Father Christmas takes a break



Christmas Bazaar Fancy Dress



Line Dancing Christmas Party



Village Hall AGM



Clive presents the Village Charity Cheque



History of Ramsden



Celia receives Retirement Present from Clive

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Parish Council

Since the last magazine the Parish Council has applied for and achieved grant funding of £7,500 from the County Council's Community Initiatives Fund and £14,460 from Veolia Pitsea Marshes Trust for improvements to the play area at the recreation ground.

The project will provide a new piece of climbing equipment and two ride on "springers" with safety surfacing for the under 8 age group. The paths will be resurfaced and some old surfacing removed.

A previous Parish Council project at the play area was to install the fence. This had two purposes: to prevent young children running into the road and to keep dogs out. The Council has received reports that dogs have been taken into the play area and in one case a large pile of evidence was left behind! Even dogs who are placid with the children in their own family can act unpredictably when confronted with strange children, and some children would be too frightened to go inside to play there if they saw a dog in the play ground, so please comply with the dog ban which was created for very sound reasons.

On the subject of dogs, the Parish Council has ordered a dog bin to be

Grahame Farley

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References Available

installed on the verge outside the Village Hall, because of the amount of excrement that is deposited there. Now that Basildon Council has imposed a byelaw on all public open spaces in the district, dog owners should be picking up the "poop" even where there is no bin to receive it.

You might not have noticed but your council tax bill will have shown this time that the Parish Council's element of the council tax this year has gone down.

The meeting schedule for the 2010/11 year will be set at the Annual Meeting on 11th. May. Thereafter it will be posted on the noticeboard opposite the shop and on the website. Meetings are open to the public and all residents are welcome to attend.

Karen Plumridge, Clerk to the Parish Council 01245 400628
www.essexinfo.net/ramsdensbellhouseparishcouncil



Medau

We are very sad to have to say that we lost our dear Pam on 27th October after a long and determined fight against leukemia. She was diagnosed more than 10 years ago with a blood disorder and from that time, knew that this would eventually happen, but she was ever cheerful, resourceful and totally immersed in life. It wasn't until Easter this year that her illness started to get the better of her, but those of you who were at the Summer fete will know that Pam was still very much in charge of the Medau stall and still playing as full a part in the running of our group as possible. It's a cliché, but very true that we didn't realise just how much Pam did for the Medau group -and within the Village Hall Committee - until she wasn't there to do it any more. In testament to how much affection the rest of the Medau group held for Pam, everyone is taking on the different jobs she did to ensure that the movement she loved so much and which was such a big part of her life continues. Not only did she run our class like clockwork -including the two fetes and our own charity events during the year - but she also did a massive amount of behind the scenes work for the Medau National Team, organising and pointing them in the right direction for displays and events in this country and in major international events abroad. Our Christmas party was a charity night



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dedicated to her memory. We, and we are sure the many of you who knew her personally or through her lively articles in the Village Magazine, will miss her and her ever present smile a lot but we are ever grateful that we knew her and counted her as a true friend.



Fun Whist

Our Saturday Fun Whist continues on the second Saturday of each month. Numbers attending remain fairly steady at around 20 at each session, but all are very welcome and we would love to see more Village residents at the evening.

We celebrated our Christmas Whist evening with festive food in the interval, but January followed with snow and ice deterring most on the evening, although a hardy dedicated few did manage to get to the Hall. A bit like the Windmill Theatre in the war - Whist stops for nothing!

Do try and join us, Roy and Derek run the evenings and you will be most welcome. Dates for the next Fun Whist Saturdays 8th May, 12th June and so on through the year.

Angela Hodivala

So you think you know the Bible

There are thirty books of the Bible in this paragraph. Can you find them?

This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much he passed it on to some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his john boat. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a fact! Some people however will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalised. Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books. in this paragraph.

During a recent fund raising event which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta Phi lemonade booth set a new sales record. The local paper, the Chronicle, surveyed over 200 patrons, who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As Daniel Humana humbly puts it, 'The books are all right here in plain view hidden from sight.'

Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. Also keep in mind that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember there is no need for a mad exodus. There really are 30 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found.

Taken from a Hertfordshire Parish News

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The Friends of St Mary's

As I write this the Builders working on our new extension are putting the final touches to their contract work in readiness for the Easter services. Further work will remain to be done including the decoration, landscaping and demolition of the old toilet block. The intention is that these jobs will be undertaken by our own members during the coming months so as to save on the costs while the basic purpose of the building will be completely serviceable.

The purpose of the new work has been to provide two new toilets, one of which will be suitable for disabled wheelchair users, a kitchenette and a new central heating boiler for the church. All of which will have direct access from the church by a new doorway cut through the north wall of the nave.

The total cost of the work will be just under £108,000 and has been made possible by two grants and a lot of hard work. The grants were one of £5,000 from the Garfield Western Foundation and the other of £63,190 from Veolia ES Pitsea Marshes Trust. The balance of £39,810 came from The Friends of St Mary's (£8,810) and St Mary's Fabric Fund (£31,000). Both these funds raise money by running events including the Flower Festival, coffee mornings Spring and Autumn Fairs, Quizzes, concerts, Drop in Days etc. etc.

We hope visitors will be able to appreciate the new work either when they come to our services or by taking advantage of our opening of the church to visitors on Saturdays during the summer months.

One other improvement that we intend to see in the coming months is the installation of a new sound system for those of hard of hearing.

The cost of the work is higher than what might be expected but this is due to the high standard of workmanship and materials that we are obliged to employ on this listed building.

Needless to say our coffers are now very nearly empty and we would welcome new members to help us to maintain and improve our fine building which we hope is a credit to our village and county.

Over the last dozen years we have spent £250,000 on major repairs and improvements to St Mary's church including the major restoration of the 596 year old tower, the retiling of the north side of the nave roof and re-shingling of the spire and now the new church extension. All whilst the regular maintenance costs are of the order of £2,000 per year and insurance costing a further £1,200.

It is not widely appreciated that the Church of England does not take

financial responsibility for its buildings. This responsibility falls upon the congregation and the local community. Membership of the Friends of St Mary's is one way that people who are more interested in the church building than its religious services can help to preserve our historic heritage for future generations. If you would like more details please contact me on 01268 710165.

Len Ferris



Answers to Bible Quiz

John, Joel, Judges, Job, Ruth, Hebrews
James, Titus, Matthew, Genesis, Philemon
Chronicles, Daniel, Lamentations, Timothy
Samuel, Numbers, Revelations, Malachi
Peter, Hosea, Exodus, Amos, Esther
Acts, Mark, Luke, Kings, Romans, Nahum

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Dog Training

Ramsden Bellhouse D.T.C. at CRUFTS again for 2010!! Valerie Dean and Hannah were part of the Southern Team that won the Inter-Regional Obedience Competition, and Val and Hannah did us proud with a



Val with Hannah

heelwork round to beat all in their class. This competition covers 6 areas and the Southern team is taken from competitors all over the South of England so it is quite something to be chosen and a definite thrill to be part of the winning team at Crufts (the biggest dog show in the world!). WELL DONE VAL AND

HANNAH. Unfortunately Pat and

Maddie did not make it through the final round but were chosen to take part in the final round after securing a position in the first trials, a great achievement for such a young dog. The YKC FLYBALL TEAM are also a part of Ramsden Bellhouse D.T.C and run under the name of 'Ramsden Rascals.' After winning last year hopes were high and everyone was very nervous. The team did us proud winning their first heat by 2 legs, unfortunately a fault in the 2nd heat meant we were to come 4th, which was still a great achievement and a trophy and rosettes for each child handler were received. My Buzz with Alexandra, Kim's Mitch with Ayrton Jones, Lynne's Echo with Hope (last years box loader), and flyball member Sue's Lola handled by Dan Ince with Dan's sister Jordan as box loader, with Debbie's Topsy and another members dog Sky were reserves, all made a great team and everyone had a brilliant day. WELL DONE TO YOU ALL.

Our AGM will be the third Tuesday in May as usual so please try to attend, as there will be a few issues to be discussed and voted upon.

The Open Show which was very successful last year is being held again for 2010 on the 25th September and your support and hopefully entries are expected. Members will get a discount and NO running order this year.

With the Summer Fete in mind, could anyone donate some good prizes to the club's fund please.

Rita Barber - Secretary



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Scout Report

Yet again 1st Ramsden & Downham Scout troop have had a very busy time since the last village hall magazine.

The scouts have worked hard to earn their swimming badge, their emergency aid badge and also completed some of the challenges required to gain their Chief Scout Gold A ward. We have also continued the tradition of our monthly out nights with trips to the swimming pool, Belvedere driving range, bowling at Eddies, fire building and lighting at Thriftwood and of course, plenty of hikes around the local area. Even when the snow was at its worst, we stayed open and took the Scouts for fun in the snow at the local park.

In January we took part in the Pedal Car Olympics in Brentwood. This year was made even more adventurous due to the snow and ice. Setting up the tents in thick snow on the Friday was a novel experience for all the leaders! (Even Clive who has been a leader for 30+ years has never put a tent up on snowy ground) Despite the chilly (-5) and snowy conditions, a great time was had by all and one of our Scouts came 3rd out of approx 400 Scouts in the pursuit race.

The next 6 months promise to be just as fun packed as we look forward to the warmer and drier weather (hopefully!!) We have already started to plan our Summer camp in August where we hope to take part in activities such as archery, rifle shooting, zipwire, backwoods cooking and many more exciting challenges.

At present we have 28 boy and girl Scouts in the troop and have others to link from the Cub pack. If you have a child aged 10½ or over who would be interested in joining us, then please contact our Group Scout Leader Janet Jeffree on 01268 710559 to add your child to the waiting list.

Zeta -Assistant Scout Leader



Cub Report

We have been very busy since my last report and here are some of the activities we have been working on. A fun fireworks night with a Guy Fawkes game, hot dogs and ending with launching rockets. Shadow puppets, which the Cubs made and then put on a play. Twelve Cubs enjoyed a spooky day out at Belchamps Scout Camp Site, Hockley, the weather was awful but the fun was not as there were activities all day -

great scouting value. Seven cubs went to see the Jack and the Beanstalk Pantomime (oh, yes they did) at Chelmsford. Our Christmas celebrations event was held at Eddies Bowling Alley, Billericay. Jon Creese, our newest Leader and called Bagheera by all the cubs, organised this and we had a terrific time. The Scout Troop followed the Cubs at Eddies and, as we overlapped slightly, a great atmosphere was felt by all. We have also worked on the Communicators Badge with the Cubs having to learn how to communicate in many different ways over several weeks. We are now working on the County Activity Challenge, which will take us right through the year.

At 10+ Cubs progress into our Scout Troop, Cub and Scout Leaders work together to ensure Cubs have a successful move into the Troop, giving young people in our Area further good scouting skills. Maybe in a few years time, some of these little Cubs will become Leaders giving the 1st Ramsden & Downham Scout Group a long future.

Akela

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Personal Page

Congratulations to

Kay Debenham on 18th March Kay and Peter Debenham attended the Basildon Sports Council and Active Basildon joint Presentation Evening at The Towngate Theatre, where Kay received a Long Service Award in recognition of 15 years service to Lawn Tennis in the District.

Bert Edwards on his 90th Birthday on April 2nd. Bert has kept us all amused with his poems in the magazine for years. He is still an enthusiastic bowler, with amazing accuracy, and an active member of the Horticultural Society.

In Memory of

Pam Nash The lovely Pam Nash died on 27th October and she is so much missed.

She represented Medau for many years on Ramsden Bellhouse Village Hall Committee making the welcome teas and coffees.

She organised the Pick a Straw stall at the Fetes and Bazaars and the children loved it. She supported all the extra events, garden parties Daffodil Days etc., so cheerfully with her ready smile.

I was always her guest at the Medau fund raising events which were great fun. Personally I have lost a good friend - but Pam none of us will ever forget you. *Joan Kelly*

Thanks

I would like, through the pages of this magazine to thank the Parish Council publicly for the Taxi Vouchers issued to pensioners without transport. This is a wonderful service, envied by many of my friends living out of the area. Thank you Pam and Ernie for organising it.

Isabel Johnson

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Bowls Club Extra

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Have you thought of Short Mat Bowling? Did you know it takes place in your own community? Well it does at The Village Hall. Why not come and join us for a free three weeks trial period, to see if you would enjoy it as much as our Members do.

It all takes place indoors so you don't get wet or cold like some activities. The Club hold three sessions each week and we currently have a few vacancies for our Monday evening or Wednesday morning sessions. As well as bowling the club organises social activities. You may well have seen the detailed report from Carol, our Clubs Correspondent elsewhere in this issue of the magazine, if not please read it as it will give you a good insight into our Club.

A new Committee has just been elected and they are looking forward to organising a new programme of activities. So why not come and meet some of your Village and surrounding areas residents, join in some community fun and relax at the same time. We are a friendly bunch and will make you very welcome.

Interested? Want to give it a try? Please ring either Kay, Club Secretary on 01268 710765 or Norman, Chairman on 01268 735206 for further details.

Norman Cornwell
Chairman Ramsden Bellhouse Short Mat Bowls Club



Badminton Club

It's been a busy few months for the club, with more activity off the court than on! On Sunday 25th October we held a table top sale in the hall and made £155 profit for the Alzheimer's charity with 27 tables. On Saturday 25th November we contributed to the Christmas bazaar, having our usual childrens stall with treasure hunt, bagatelle, marbles and shove ha'penny. Many thanks to the members manning these two events and especially to Ernie's grandchildren Scott, Owen and Harvey for successfully running the Cafe.

Many thanks to Gill for arranging this years December Christmas Dinner for the badminton members. It was held at the White Hart Margaretting Tye and 30 members and other halves had an enjoyable meal.

Our New Year Walk was planned by Glenys for Wednesday 30th December but the weather proved very problematic. Brian trialled the route the day before and found the heavy rain and quagmire footpaths almost impassable so we simply enjoyed a long lunch around a log fire in the Fox and Goose - well done to those who managed to stir the fire into life!

On the badminton court there has been less success mainly due to a succession of injuries from which players are still recovering. Get fit soon! The club is therefore a little short of players at the moment - please ring the secretary if interested.

Brian Hyland

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Mondays to Saturdays		NS		NS = Not Saturdays	
South Woodham Ferrers, Asda	0800	0900	1100	1300	1620
Wickford, Rail Station	0817	0917	1117	1317	1637
RAMSDEN HEATH, White Horse	0827	0927	1127	1327	1647
RAMSDEN BELLHOUSE, Glebe Road	0830	0930	1130	1330	1650
CRAYS HILL, Shephard & Dog	0834	0934	1134	1334	1654
Festival Leisure Park	....	0944	1144	1344	1704
Basildon, Bus Station	0848	0951	1151	1351	1711
Basildon Hospital	0855	0955	1155	1355	1716
Basildon Hospital		0957	1157	1357	1718
Basildon, Bus Station		1002	1202	1402	1724
Festival Leisure Park		1009	1209	1409	1731
CRAYS HILL, Shephard & Dog		1019	1219	1419	1741
RAMSDEN BELLHOUSE, Glebe Road		1023	1223	1423	1745
RAMSDEN HEATH, White Horse		1026	1226	1426	1748
Wickford, Rail Station		1036	1236	1436	1758
South Woodham Ferrers, Asda		1052	1252	1452	1813

WICKFORD - RAMSDEN HEATH - CHELMSFORD		Regal Busways 14	
Mondays to Saturdays		NS	
Wickford, Rail Station	0645	0735	0738
RAMSDEN HEATH, White Horse	0655	0745	0749
Galleywood, The Eagle	0719	0810	0813
Chelmsford, Bus Station	0734	0827	0826

NS		S		NS		S		NS		S	
Chelmsford, Bus Station	....	....	0855	1055	1255	1455	1555	1655	1755	1855	1940
Galleywood, The Eagle	....	....	0908	1108	1308	1508	1608	1708	1808	1907	1952
RAMSDEN HEATH, White Hse.	0723	0726	0919	1119	1319	1519	1633	1719	1833	1932	2017
Wickford, Rail Station	0733	0736	0929	1129	1329	1529	1640	1729	1841	1940	2025

* = Operates via South and West Hanningfield as Service 15A

WICKFORD - CRAYS HILL - BILLERICAY - QUEENS PARK		NIBS 222	
Mondays to Fridays		NSch	
Wickford, opp. Swans	0625	0725	0835
CRAYS HILL, Shep. & Dog	0634	0734	0844
Billericay, Rail Stn.	0647	0747	0857
Queens Pk., Arl. Way	0653	0753	0905
Billericay, Rail Stn.	0700	0800	0910
CRAYS HILL, Shep. & Dog	0712	0812	0922
Wickford, opp. Swans	0719	0819	0929

Saturdays		Sundays	
Wickford, Halls Cnr.	0723	0823	0933
CRAYS HILL, Shep. & Dog	0728	0828	0938
Billericay, Rail Stn.	0743	0846	0956
Queens Park, Arl. Way	0750	0853	1003
Billericay, Rail Stn.	0755	0902	1012
CRAYS HILL, Shep. & Dog	0807	0914	1024
Wickford, Halls Cnr.	0812	0922	1032

NSch = Not School Days
Saturday journeys operate to and from The Wick
Sunday journeys operate through from Southend
to Brentwood/Warley and vice versa

Whilst every care has been taken with the compilation of the above information,
no responsibility can be accepted for inaccuracies

Village Events

MAY

Saturday 8th	Whist Drive	7.30pm	Village Hall
Tuesday 11th	Parish Council AGM		Village Hall
Saturday 15th	St Mary's Spring Fair	11.00am - 2.00pm	Village Hall

JUNE

Saturday 12th	Crunch	9.00am - 12 noon	Village Hall
Sunday 12th	Whist Drive	7.30pm	Village Hall
Saturday 19th	Horticultural Summer Show	2.30pm	Village Hall
Saturday 26th	Fun Day	12 noon	Village Hall
Sunday 27th	Anniversary Service & Garden Party		Baptist Church

JULY

Saturday 10th	Whist Drive	7.30pm	Village Hall
Tuesday 13th	St Mary's Garden Party	2.00 - 5.00pm	Bramhill
	Orchard Ave		

AUGUST

Saturday 14th	Whist Drive	7.30pm	Village Hall
Saturday 28th	Art Show	10.00am - 4.00pm	Village Hall
Sunday 29th			
Monday 30th			
Saturday 28th	Flower Festival	2.00 - 5.00pm	St. Mary's Church
Sunday 29th	Flower Festival	10.30am-5.00pm	St. Mary's Church
Monday 30th	Flower Festival	10.30am-5.00pm	St. Mary's Church

SEPTEMBER

Saturday 11th	Horticultural Spring Show	2.30pm	Village Hall
Saturday 11th	Whist Drive	7.30pm	Village Hall
Saturday 25th	Crunch	9.00am - 12 noon	Village Hall

OCTOBER

Saturday 9th	Whist Drive	7.30pm	Village Hall
Saturday 30th	Fun Singing Day	10.00am - 4.00pm	Village Hall

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