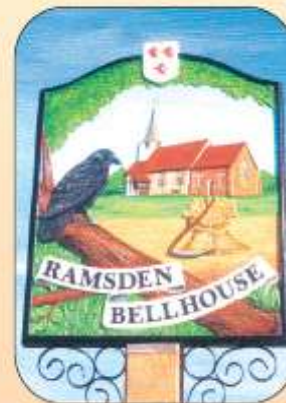


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Village Magazine

Summer 2012



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A Word from the Editor

Sixty years ago Elizabeth II became our Queen. What changes there have been in those sixty years. We can travel all over the world with comparative speed and ease. We can see people we are phoning, we can walk about apparently talking to ourselves with a thing called a mobile phone. We have computers, colour televisions with amazing versatility, DVD's iPods and other things I don't know how to spell. The mind boggles, at these amazing inventions. You can have new hearts, lungs, hips, knees - the list is endless.

But what about changes in Ramsden Bellhouse. Well in 1952 our local council was Billericay Urban District Council now it's Basildon Council. There was no Parish Council. Ninety Nine per cent of our homes were bungalows with large gardens of at least half an acre, where chickens and pigs were kept. The four side roads were unmade rarely free of mud and puddles. We filled the pot holes with ashes from our coal fires. Very few people had central heating or double glazing. The ditches (yes we all had well maintained ditches - and no flooding problems) were full of pollution for there was no main drainage. Oddly enough rarely did long standing residents suffer tummy upsets, paddling in the ditches as children somehow made us immune to the "tummy bug"!

On the positive side we had a good bus service, every hour from Shotgate to Brentwood. Village people patronised the Village Hall, churches were fuller and we had thriving Sunday Schools. We knew our neighbours even if we did call them Mr and Mrs. Our children could safely walk to Crays Hill School on their own and wander over fields and woodlands without fear.

The butcher the baker, milkman and village shop took orders and had regular delivery days. The village policeman was often seen on his bike, and doctors came out to visit their patients when they were ill. We cannot go back, nor would we, in truth want to, but what changes the more mature of us have seen. And what of the future? For myself I hope our village retains a country village character - hedges for the birds, gardens for the bees, and trees and flowers for the rural character - and yes, a few muddy puddles for the children to jump in.

Thanks as usual, but none the less very sincere, to everyone involved with the production and delivery of this magazine. Copy for the next one by September 20th either to me or to bryan.diggory@sky.com.

Isabel Johnson

Chairmans Report

I think that spring is definitely on the way, daffodils are coming out and some blossom is on the trees, lets hope that this year the frost does not affect the fruit tree germination as in some past years.

At the village hall we have had the A.G.M. and Isabel's History of Ramsden, both of which were very successful. The A.G.M. report can be seen on the web site under news item. (ramsdensbellhouse.info). Have a look. As reported at the A.G.M. a representative of Help for Hero's received a cheque for £3019. Next years chosen charity was 'THE J'S HOSPICE' Great Baddow, ESSEX, lets hope that we can hand over a large cheque to them next year.

Isabel's 'History of Ramsden' also proved very successful with a great deal of information on the local area, photographs, documents, reports, maps, they are all there. If you have not been to this event you probably do not realise the quantity of information that there is. Come along next year, I am sure that you will not be disappointed.

The next event at the Hall was 'St Georges Day' breakfast, to be followed by the Fete, Art Show, Singing Day and the Bazaar. Come along to one of these events and meet us or join one of the clubs associated with the hall, membership is open to all ages. Contact information can be found on the Web Site together with photographs and information on all clubs and events.

C. Jeffree

Ramsden Bellhouse Village Hall Chairman
ramsdensbellhouse.info



Photos by Pat Sparke and Dick Wellborne



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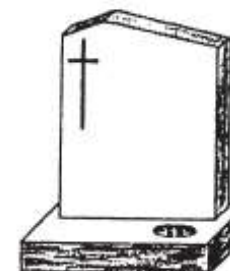
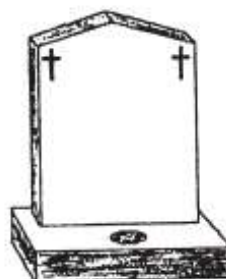
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Dancing

After 14 celebrations last year dancing will seem a little quiet this year with only a 60th birthday and a ruby wedding to celebrate.

But things could easily change.

Dancing is still going well and on March 4th was 22 years old so something must be going right. If anyone from the village would like to join us you will be made welcome. We are not a school of any kind, so don't think it is all serious stuff it's just fun. This year we are running a square dance for our charity event, which is for J's Hospice. Tickets are £8 each before the day, or £10 at the door. Bring your own drinks and nibbles. This should be a very good night. For more details or tickets call Joan 710260 or Barry 711336. The date is Saturday 19th May 2012 at 7.30pm. Look forward to seeing you at either Dancing or the Square Dance or both.

Joan Telkman

Jowett Long 4 and its connection to Ramsden Bellhouse in BYGONE YEARS



This old Jowett was once part of the Ramsden Bellhouse scenery. the car was originally owned by Frederick William Garvey of Florencehurst, Glebe Road. Mr Garvey purchased the car new from Eric Hora, Automobile Engineer of Rainsford End, Chelmsford.

The registration TW5655 is the original issue from the Vehicle Licence Register office at Chelmsford on 1st June 1926.

The car itself is known as a Jowett Long 4 which means long chassis, four seat tourer.

It has RAC rated seven HP seventeen BHP, it has a 3 speed crash gearbox and brakes to the rear wheels only. It has no modern shock absorbers and very few creature comforts.

this is typical of a light car of this period.

The accompanying photos are of the car at the Sharp's sale 2005 after some 60 years in storage.

I attended the 2005 sale at Gables Service Station, Rayleigh. Whilst I was not successful in winning possession of the car at the sale I later discovered through the Jowett Car Club that the Jowett was for sale again in 2007. On this occasion I managed to purchase the car. The previous owner had a new hood made had stripped paint from the coachwork and fitted four new tyres.

I have now restored the car back to running condition and have been able to retain the original interior apart from replacing 2 small panels adjacent to the rear seat. The engine is completely original with under 5000 miles. This became quite evident during a precautionary overhaul.

The gearbox is in similar condition and has required no attention. Whilst the rear axle on close examination found to have a cracked spur gears which has been duly replaced.

I would be very interested to talk to anybody in the village who knew the original owner or his family to learn a little more about the history of the car.

Anthony J Gouldsmith 07711 258577
Email: anthony-gouldsmith@yahoo.co.uk



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The Friends of St Mary's

The New Year got off to a flying start with the Daffodil Drop In day at Isabel's on March 13th. The event raised £419.20 surpassing last year's total of £390.50. Many thanks to Isabel for the use of her home and to all those who helped to make the day such a success.

We will be holding our AGM in the church at 7.30pm on Friday April 20th at which we hope to put forward a list of proposed repairs / improvements which can be made to our lovely old building to ensure its appeal for future generations.

Our next event will be our Amble Ramble on Saturday 5th May. Isabel has been our guide on these occasions up to now but opted to step down from this task after last year's ramble on the excuse that she was finding it increasingly difficult to negotiate climbing over styles. (what nonsense, anyone would think she was getting old!). However Kay and Peter Debenham have stepped into the brink and will be shepherding us on this year's Ramble. Kay and Peter are keen walkers and know the area as well as anyone. We will be starting from the Baptist's Church car park at 10.00am on the 5th May and all being well finish there at about 12.30am for a choice of hot soups, rolls, cheese and crisps. The cost of the event will be £2.50 per person. Please come and join us, you will be surprised how attractive this part of Essex can be once you get off the main roads.

The Friends of St Mary's is a sectarian organisation set up to cater for not only those who worship at the church but also for those who are interested in the history and existence of our charming little church. There has been a church on the same site for over 1,000 years, so there is plenty to be proud of. Membership of The Friends cost £10 per person or £20 per household. Contact Len Ferris on 01268 710 165 for more information.

Len Ferris



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Parish Council

The Parish Council, in collaboration with the Village Hall committee are working to improve the availability of and access to high speed communications and modern computing in the village. We believe that this will benefit all residents and especially those who need access to the Internet or other services from home for business purposes.

The programme of improvements is known as the "Digital Village" project currently consists of the following initiatives:

1. Improving the Internet services in the village by working with Essex County Council to take advantage of Central Government funding allocated to provide rural communities with availability of modern fibre optic delivered high-speed Internet. We are also seeking to provide residents with a choice of provider as we believe that competition may help to make the costs of these services more economical. Currently these services are available from a choice of suppliers in nearby towns such as Billericay, Wickford and Basildon but not within our village. A recent

review by the Parish Council identified that the providers of these services have no current plans to extend their fibre optic networks to our village.

2. Making available to residents a range of short training sessions in the village hall covering topics such as the use of basic Internet tools such as browsing and email; use of Cloud based services for document or photo processing; media services such as online music and movie possibilities and others.

3. Availability of Wi-fi access in the village to enable the use of mobile devices with access to Internet both inside and outside the home.

The Parish Council would very much like to hear from residents. In particular whether residents support this initiative, the type of training courses which residents would like to have covered and any other ideas which you feel might be of general benefit to the community.

Please send your feedback and suggestions to ramsdenbpccclerk@btinternet.com or The Clerk to the Council, 2 Clinton Close, East Hanningfield CM3 8AZ

Alan Harvey, Chairman, Ramsden Bellhouse Parish Council



Horticultural

What a strange Winter we have had, so mild to begin with, all the bulbs, hellebores and snowdrops were well up by the end of January. Then the snow that lasted for far too long.

The AGM in November did not see as many members as we would have liked. However, all the wine, mince pies and nibbles went and we agreed all that was on the agenda.

Our annual inter society quiz run by Runwell this year was a very good evening and won jointly by Wickford and Galleywood.

The hut opened on the 26th February 10.00 until noon, give Ken a visit there and see his stock.

The meetings so far this year have been well attended and we have several new members. There are some good speakers to come, a garden visit and 3 shows, the Summer one to be held at the Village Fete. Like all clubs we would like to see more members at our meetings held on the 3rd Monday of the month at 8.00pm.

Marion Shillum

Medcalfs

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Baptist Church

Normally our Minister would write this but as we are currently in a 'Pastoral vacancy' this has been written in his place.

As this Magazine will be available in May, Easter will be past. Nevertheless, I hope you will forgive me for writing about Easter, which I find hard to ignore, even though the services in April had taken place some weeks before.

If Christmas is so very important in the Christian calendar, then I think Easter is even more so. Of course without Christmas which celebrates the birth of Christ, Easter could not have happened. While Christmas is tinsel and holly, and a baby in a manger, Easter is a dark story until the burst of incredible light on the third day!

In the night Jesus was betrayed then arrested and taken by the soldiers in the garden of Gethsemane. They took him to the Jewish priest's where they held a farce of a trial. They mocked him, ill treated him. Then they sent him off to Pilate the Roman authority in the land. Pilate questioned him and didn't find any reason for him to be executed as he was being pressurised to do by the priests and the crowd. But Pilate didn't want a

riot to subdue so he released a murderer and sent Jesus to be crucified. So end's Jesus' life, nailed to a wooden cross. Despair and fear grips his followers. It was all over, all their hopes faded away with only a feeling of terrible loss taking their place!

But listen; there is a sub text. When Jesus was arrested he said that if he chose to call to his Father, his Father would send twelve legions of Angels to defend him. But, he said, "I must do my Father's will. The scripture must be fulfilled".

Then when Jesus stood in front of Pilate, and Jesus had not defended himself, Pilate asks him "Don't you know I have the power to release you or have you put to death?" Jesus then said "You would have no power if it had not been given to you from above."

Of course one can dismiss such words of Jesus as his imagination.

But faith is the key to Easter. Especially on the third day, when the resurrection of Jesus happens!

As a Christian I believe that Jesus died for all of us, and that faith in him is essential to knowing him now in 2012. If the resurrection did not occur then all Christians are wasting their time trusting in him, but if it did then what can we do than to believe and trust him who overcame death?

Well I said I can't just ignore or not mention Easter, and I haven't. None of us should forget Easter and what happened so long ago but which can touch us now over 2000 years later, whatever time of the year it is.

Roger Newton – Church Secretary



Line Dancing

If you like good music and like to dance and have an hour to spare, why not come and join us at the Village Hall on a Monday afternoon. We have two excellent teachers Jean and Lynn who go through the dances step by step so even if you haven't line danced before they make it really easy to follow.

We have a lot of fun so just come down to the Village Hall any Monday at 2.p.m. (except Bank Holidays) and we will make you very welcome, and it will only cost you £2.00.

Ann Wellborne

Changes to Bus Timetable

Although the number of journeys on the NIBS Route 237 through the Ramsdens and Crays Hill remains unchanged, the following alterations took place on the 5th March.

Firstly, only the first and last journeys to Basildon now serve the Hospital, other journeys terminating at the Bus Station. Coming from Basildon, only the last two evening journeys start from the Hospital (7 minutes later than before), the rest starting from the Bus Station (2 minutes earlier than previously). Secondly, the route in Wickford has changed. Going into Wickford, the bus turns out of Swan Lane into Alderney Gardens, Guernsey Gardens and Station Avenue into the Broadway, so alight at the station or the Swan. Board for the return journey opposite the Swan or at the Station.



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Teddies for Tragedies Essex Branch

During the winter months 4960 teddies were distributed in Zambia, Kosovo, Rumania, Sierra Leone and Turkey. Those going to Turkey were for children caught up in the earthquake. This takes the grand total since 1995 to 275,137. 700 clowns have gone to Kosovo with blankets, hats, jumpers, cardigans, baby clothes, shoes and pasta together with 2779 margarine boxes filled with toiletries.



In time for Christmas we sent over 450 shoeboxes through Blythwood Care to Eastern Europe. One story that came back to me from Albania was 'How do you feed five children on the equivalent of 65p'. That was the situation facing one Mum when her two year old son was presented with a box full of gifts. So you can imagine how much it meant to a young widow to see each of her family receive sweets, toys, toiletries, clothes and other useful items. Suffering from untreated depression and ashamed of his inability to provide for his family her husband had drowned himself in a lake. This family's tragic story is all too typical of those who have moved from rural villages to Tirana in the hope of improving their standard of living. The capital's city streets are not paved with gold. This family also received food aid. By filling shoeboxes with practical gifts you have brought joy to children like these and sent a message to those who are old enough to understand - somebody cares for them! A big thank you to everybody who supported me in this project.

Audrey Pegrum MBE, Essex Branch Organiser



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Cub Report

For the Village Hall Charity the cub pack went on a sponsored walk around Hanningfield Reservoir, and also one pack night held a tea and cake evening raising a good sum of £286.01 over the two events. We all had an interesting time besides helping raise funds for 'Help The Heroes'.

As part of our community challenge we had the RNLI come and give an excellent evening with a great understanding of this worthwhile charity. Our treat for Christmas was a night at Rayleigh Quazer where the cubs had a brilliant time charging around aiming and shooting at anything that moved.

This year we have started working on many challenge badges and hopefully most cubs will gain these.

For Mothers Day cubs designed, and made a pendant out of clay then they attached a metal clasp, each pendant was painted and strung on pretty ribbon. Every pendant went home in a beautiful hand made box, I should think many mums were pleased with their special gift.

The 1st Ramsden & Downham Scout Group have just been issued with a Queens Diamond Jubilee badge like all scouts in our great country we shall wear these with pride.



Akela



Scouts

Last September the Scouts started work on their Fitness Challenge Badge, which involved a set of physical activities over four weeks followed by sessions on the importance of a healthy diet and sleep and the dangers and harmful effects of smoking, alcohol and drugs. A majority of our 29 Scouts have now obtained this badge, a step on their way to the Chief Scouts Gold Award.

The weekly programme has included plenty of badge work, moving towards the Promise, Creative and Community Challenge Badges and many Scouts have achieved their Model Maker Badge, Guide Badge, and Swimming Badges and nearly completed work for the PR Badge. The Essex Challenge, each month, has seen the Scouts looking at eco-recycling, the Scout Law and Promise and much more. This is a special County Award with the tasks spread over the Scouting year.

Out nights have included swimming, golf driving range, visits to Thriftwood Scout Camp for campfire cooking and axe work, 10 pin bowling at Eddies in Billericay and night hikes around the area.

The Scout Troop continues to meet on Wednesday evenings at the village hall, from 7.30 to 9.30. Two hours never seems enough time!

Weekend events have included: the District Night Hike last November, starting and finishing at Runwell Scout Hut, which took us to Battlesbridge, South Woodham Ferrers and Rettenden - quite a night, the District Swimming Gala in January, Belchamps Wintercamp during February, where the weather was windy then very wet, followed by heavy rain a freezing cold night and a sparkling white frost on the Sunday morning. The sun then came out, warmed us up and dried the tents. Most recently 21 Scouts, 5 Leaders and 1 dad joined in the fun at the Secret Nuclear Bunker, near Brentwood. The Scouts were 'Secret Agents' and had to undertake a number of tasks during this overnight event, which had over 200 participants.

By the time you receive this magazine we will have celebrated our Centenary Fun Day in celebration of 100 years in the Village.

Chris Maker Scout Leader

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Birds of the Bellhouse

After a great summer with the dragon/demoiselle flies, twelve species in the garden autumn started well with a Buzzard on October 21st and three early Fieldfares. The first Redwing on 27th was a welcome follow on. Most months I see around 30 species in or over the garden and occasionally something rarer. The Sparrow Hawks have been very active this winter reducing the number of Collard Doves and decimating my neighbour's doves. The "common" birds are now becoming less common and it was good to see the Skylark and the odd Thrush. Both Green and Great Spotted Woodpeckers visit most days but the Lesser Spotted has now disappeared. In the middle of November the Pheasants returned, only one male and three females this year. Gardens are great for them as they are large enough to keep away from the cats and will eat almost anything that is available. I still see the Bullfinches and there are a fair number of Tawny Owls. If you go into the garden at dusk or a little after and stand or sit quietly for a few minutes preferably with a hot cup of coffee or maybe something stronger you may hear them calling, as many as four some evenings. If you are lucky they can be seen briefly flying low over the garden. Do not attempt to call them in by imitating the whooo! or kwik noise! as they may be tempted to come just too close. The birds have not been any trouble in the garden this winter both myself and my neighbours feed the birds and I net my cabbages, despite having 60 Pigeons in the garden on a few occasions the Pigeons have not done any damage. Your garden is their supermarket so we must protect our crops from the birds. Many Gulls fly over each night to roost on Hanningfield and their plaintive calls at the darkening are both eerie and soothing. At the end of January I was visited by a Tawny and a Barn Owl. One of my neighbours also saw a Barn Owl at the top of Church Road by the farm. The most unusual bird of the winter was a Little Egret on 14th and 22nd of January. A Woodcock was seen on March 11th.

From Birder

*Every survival kit should include
a sense of humour*

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Banoffi Pie

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6oz caster sugar
14oz can of condensed milk
2 bananas sliced
½ pt double cream - lightly whipped
1oz dark chocolate

Melt 4oz of the butter. Stir in the crushed biscuits. Press into the base of a 7 ½ inch loose-bottomed flan tin. Chill.

Place the remaining butter and sugar in a non-stick saucepan. Heat gently stirring until the butter has melt. Add the condensed milk and heat gently stirring continuously until simmering.

Simmer on a low heat for exactly 5 minutes to make a light golden caramel.

Pour over biscuit base and allow to cool in the refrigerator.

To serve: Slice the bananas and layer most of them over the toffee. Spread with the cream. Top with the remaining sliced bananas and grated chocolate.

Tips. Slice bananas into a little lemon juice to prevent discolouring.

To prevent the caramel mixture from burning stir continuously over a steady heat.

Serve chilled or at room temperature for a softer toffee.

For safety reasons it is best not to boil the can of condensed milk.

Some supermarkets sell tins of caramelised condensed milk which can be used and heated through with the melted butter and sugar.

Joan Wright



**There is nothing better than a good friend,
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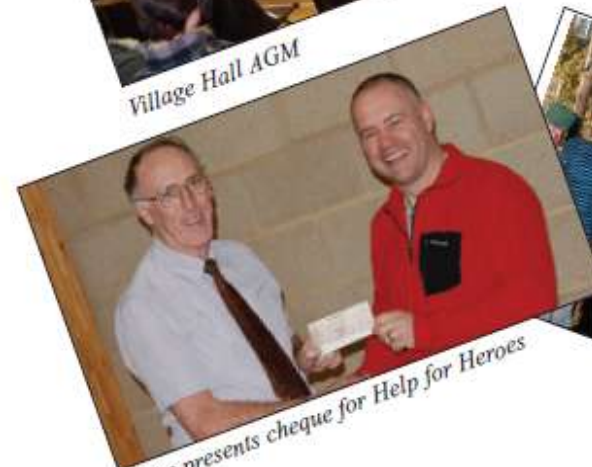
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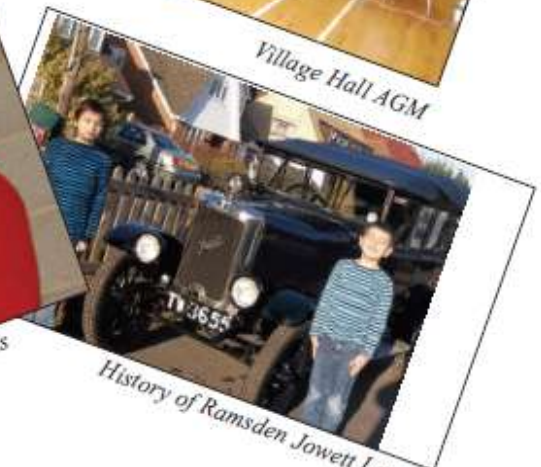
St Mary's Autumn Fair



Tasting Evening



Clive presents cheque for Help for Heroes



History of Ramsden Jowett Long 4



Christmas Bazaar



Line Dancing Party



Left:
Christmas Bazaar

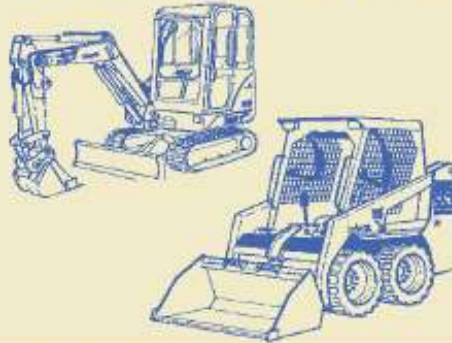


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References Available

St Mary's Church

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

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

St Mary's joined with the Baptist Church and the Cubs and Scouts for the annual Remembrance Day Service in the Village Hall, which was, as usual, very well attended; the collection raised £160 for BLESMA. Other joint services with the Baptist congregation took place in February at their Church and on Palm Sunday, 1st April, when the two congregations together with members of St Margaret's Downham and St Peter's, South Hanningfield, met at the Baptist Church for the distribution of Palms and a Procession of Witness to St Mary's for a joint service of Holy Communion. Other combined services will be arranged for the Autumn.

On 15th December, members of St. Mary's and friends went Carol Singing in the Village, and collected £120. for the Children's Society. A week later, the Church was packed with a hundred or so people for the annual Carol Service, when the collection of £187. was donated to St Luke's Hospice.

On the Social and Fundraising side, last year's Autumn Fair was well supported and raised £725. for Church funds. Our Spring Fair this year will be on Saturday 19th May, from 11. a.m. to 2. p.m. at the Village Hall, and we look forward to seeing many of you there. The date for the annual Garden Party is yet to be arranged.

The Flower Festival at St Mary's will take place over the August Bank Holiday, 25th - 27th August. Opening times are Saturday, 2. p.m. to 5. p.m. (light refreshments available) and Sunday and Monday, 11. a.m. to 5. p.m. (Ploughman's lunches and other refreshments and various stalls and attractions in the churchyard). There will be a Songs of Praise service on Sunday at 4.p.m.

Our Quiz Nights have a regular band of followers, but there is always room for more teams. The Charity Quiz in November in aid of Help for Heroes raised £451. (A collection in Church added to this enabled £528.50. to be given as St Mary's contribution to the Village Charity

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Effort.) The February Quiz raised £412. for Church funds. Our next Quiz, on 26th May, will be in aid of Village Hall funds. For further details or to book a team, ring Alan on 01268 710757.

Finally, we would be pleased to welcome any of you to our regular services at St Mary's as listed above. For those not used to regular church attendance, the Family Service on the fourth Sunday is a good starting point. This is a simple 45 - minute service (for individuals as well as families) which includes a short talk geared towards the children.

Alan Pegrum

St Mary's Spring Fair
May 19th Village Hall

Bowls Club

I cannot believe that Christmas and New year were just a few months ago. Of course we had our traditional club party / get together. A good spread of food arranged by the three musketeers, namely Jacquie, Angela and Barbara, well done.

It must be mentioned that Sylvie and Tom Ealham have yet again won the Friday Club competition and have done so for the last 16 years, congratulations.

Of course we had the snow and ice which forced the league matches to be postponed. Any outstanding matches are nearly up to date and going splendidly by all three teams. Once the league matches are completed the "friendlies" begin, so we don't really stop playing matches.

Two celebrations, Derek Bird celebrated his 80th birthday and Bomber Bill, his 60th (Diamond) wedding anniversary, best wishes to all.

Next matches will be the Club Members competitions to be held in May, see who comes first this time. Results in the next issue of the magazine.

We also had our AGM, I am not sure if it is just the cheese and wine etc or the devotion of the members to re-elect the committee but all went well especially the cheese and wine. We have a new committee member, Eileen Smith.

We have full membership for the Mondays and Fridays but there are a few places for the Wednesday mornings, 9.30 to 12.30. You don't have to be experienced but would like to join in and have a good time in a very friendly club. Please telephone Kay on 01268 710765.

Carol Finn



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Badminton Club

The Badminton Club continues to meet most Friday Evenings at the Village Hall from 8.00pm until 10.00pm and as always we are keen to recruit new members. Our current members range in age from 80 to 18 and cover a wide range of ability and experience. Our emphasis is on an enjoyable social game of Badminton with all levels of experience welcome, so if you fancy coming to the Club to try a few games to see if it's for you, the first couple of sessions are free. We look forward to seeing you one Friday soon.



Karen Pearce



Baptist Church

Church Services: Every Sunday at 10.30 am (Communion is normally on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month). Prayer Meetings and a Monthly Bible Study are held at a members house on Wednesdays at 7.30 pm. An informal "Drop In" is held in the Church Hall every Monday from 10.30 am. It is simply called "Monday Morning". All are welcome to any of these meetings.

The last article from the Baptist Church was in the autumn of 2011. At that point Geoffrey Griggs and Annie had retired and we were in our interregnum.

We are still in our interregnum or Pastoral vacancy, and we continue to seek the Lord's Will concerning a new pastor. Our Regional minister, the Rev Sheila Martin supported us at the beginning of this time, and advised us as to the process of seeking a new pastor. We are very grateful to her for her guidance then and currently. Sheila has preached at the church from time to time and is due to visit us again in April to take a service.

In November we were pleased to appoint the Rev Jon Stannard, who is the national director of Viz-a-Viz, as our moderator. Viz-a-Viz is a Christian Charity to promote the Christian faith through various means of communication. We are very pleased that Jon was willing to take us on and he has been a great help, encouragement and challenge to our fellowship. He has preached on several occasions and he led a united

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service with St Mary's on the 12th February this year.

At Christmas we held our Carol Service on the 18th December which was led by Rev Sheila Martin and at which Rev Raymond Bolton preached the sermon. A variety of people read the bible readings and it was encouraging to see a good number of people sharing in the service. After the service we had a time to chat and enjoy some Christmas fare.

On Christmas day the deacons led a shorter than normal service which was well received, before we left to enjoy the Christmas festivities with family and friends. The deacons also took the New Year's Day Service which was led by Jenny Jacques on that occasion. All the members and friends of the church have supported us, and we all work together to help in the running of the church in so many ways. Our joint efforts are very encouraging to us all.

Our Sunday services have continued as normal, with the exception on a "blip" when the snow caused us to cancel a service. We have had a variety of preachers over the months since Geoff retired, and we have been encouraged in our faith by them. The deacons have also led services on occasions. Currently our friend and member the Rev Raymond Bolton has been preaching a series from St John's gospel from the "I am" sayings of Jesus. We are very grateful to him for preaching this series, which has been most uplifting and helpful.

As I said at the beginning, we continue to seek the Lord's Will with regard to the future. Please add your prayers to ours. Thank you so much. May God's blessing be with us all in the two villages'.

Roger Newton – Church Secretary



Fun Whist

Spring is really on the way now and we have to be grateful for a far less severe winter than last year! Whist hasn't been badly affected by the weather and numbers attending have been steady. As mentioned before, we have several new players who have joined us from Ramsden Heath, and other players come from Billericay, Wickford and even from Brentwood. We owe a big vote of thanks to Barbara, a whist player from Ramsden Heath, who has very kindly offered her services to help with the setting up of the village website. She has taken a lot of photos of hall activities, including the festive December whist session, featured in the

photographic section, with a tasty buffet replacing the usual tea and biscuits in the break. An opportunity here, to also give a big vote of thanks to Isabel a stalwart of the whist sessions (as well as bowls and horticulture) who provides our 'cuppa' and biscuits in the interval. Yet another thank you for the kind donation by Eric and Jill Lewsey of a school bell to replace the one which has gone missing. A good, strong, unmissable call to change tables. Derek has now decided to hand over the running of the whist sessions to Roy. As a card playing 'fanatic' he will no doubt continue to come to the whist sessions, but won't have the responsibilities of preparing the hall etc. We look forward to seeing new attendees at the whist sessions – second Saturday in the month – starting at 7.15pm. A warm welcome to all, and don't forget to check out the comprehensive village website.

Angela Hodivala



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Dog Training

This year has started very well with lots of new members, the puppy classes have gone from strength to strength under the tuition of Jill Head. With our new concept in the next level being split into 2 classes with Rita Barber taking the puppy class progression and Gill Winyard taking the young dogs that more experienced handlers are training up to competitive obedience levels. Then Pat Keeble and Gill Winyard are in turns monthly, taking on the advanced class at 9pm. Our fantastic Gill Winyard and her wonderful dog 'Sunnie' qualified to enter the Crufts obedience championships for 2012 by winning 3 tickets and making 'Sunnie' a champion. They had a really special day and Sunnie worked fantastically and looked stunning, a few minor errors left them out of the placings but a great day was had by them and everyone that went along to watch. Our recent progress night went well, and the people and dogs that entered special pre-beginners did extremley well.

For many of them it was the first time under competition rules, and they should be very proud of themselves and their dogs. For new members our AGM will be held at the end of May and a proposed agenda will be put on the notice board in April, please note that you must add points for discussion to the agenda as no other business can be discussed unless added to the agenda. Other news and dates can be found on our website : rbdtc.webs.com. Please join the website as members so you can put any points you wish to make forward to the committee.

Rita Barber - Secretary



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History of Ramsden Exhibition 2012

"It's the same old thing again" someone said well that's history for you, though of course it's interpretation does alter from time to time. So it was the same old thing again - except for the star of the Saturday show - a Jowett Long 4 motor car, first registered in 1926 to Frederick Garvey of Glebe Road Ramsden Bellhouse. It had been lovingly restored by Anthony Gouldsmith (see Bygone Years). So many people enjoyed seeing it at the Village Hall, and the owner left with photos and information on the Garvey family.



Apart from this, a steady stream of visitors came to the exhibition from all parts of Essex and showed great interest some even came both days. It came right up to date and into the future with the showing of the Ramsden Bellhouse Website, by Barbara, Steve and Clive. The Visitors Book made very complimentary reading - even though someone did only come for the coffee and cake!



I have been doing this Exhibition for more than twenty years with the help of many willing helpers. To them I say thank you very much - together we raised £348, but more importantly we gave a lot of people the pleasure of seeing our local history.

Isabel Johnson



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God's Painter

Tradesmen are in great demand. If you're a builder, a plumber or an electrician, you'll never starve. A certain tradesman, a painter called Harry was very keen to make an extra few bob where he could. To this end he'd often thin down paint to make it go a little bit further.

As it happened, he got away with this for some time but eventually a church decided to do a big restoration job on the painting of one of their biggest churches.

Harry put in a bid and because his price was so low, he got the job.

He set to erecting the tressels, setting up the planks and buying the paint and - sorry to say thinning it down with the turpentine.

Harry worked hard, up on the scaffolding, his little brush was a blur. The job was all but completed when, suddenly, there was a horrendous clap of thunder, the sky opened and rain poured down, washing the thinned paint from all over the church and knocking Harry clear off the scaffold to land on the lawn. Lying there among the gravestones, surrounded by telltale puddles of thinned and useless paint, Harry faced reality. He knew this was a judgement from the Almighty so he got on his knees and cried.

And from the thunder spake a mighty voice:

"Repaint! Repaint" and thin no more!"

Extract from Don Maclean's book "Closer to Heaven"



Personal Page

Congratulations to:

Christopher Wellborne youngest son of Ann & Dick has achieved his Masters in Digital Marketing Communications. Chris who now lives in Wolverton M.Keynes with his fiancée and two year old daughter attended both Crays Hill and Billericay schools.

Joyce and Bill Whiskin on their diamond wedding on March 8th. Bill is a member of the Ramsden Bowls Club and Joyce is sister to Audrey Pegrum

Linda and Derek Swan of Church Road on the birth of their third grandchild on 24th March Samuel Jack Challis to their daughter Victoria and her partner Paul.

In Memory of:

Denis Jones who died earlier this year. He had lived in Ramsden Bellhouse for most of his life, first at 'Lorna Doone' Church Road and then in 'The Grange'. Our sympathy goes out to his family.

Art Show August Bank Holiday Weekend Village Hall

COPY FOR WINTER ISSUE

Thanks to everyone who sent their copy by email.

Please continue to do so as this is a great help and saves time.

Please send copy and photos for the next magazine by

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RAMSDEN BELLHOUSE - CRAYS HILL - BASILDON

NIBS 237

Mondays to Saturdays NS NS = Not Saturdays

South Woodham Ferrers, A&D	0800	0900	1100	1300	1620
Kickford, Rail Station	0817	0919	1119	1319	1639
RAMSDEN HEATH, White Horse	0827	0929	1129	1329	1649
RAMSDEN BELLHOUSE, Globe Road	0830	0932	1132	1332	1652
CRAYS HILL, Shepherd & Dog	0834	0936	1136	1336	1656
Miles Gray Road, opp. B & Q	0840	0943	1143	1343	1703
Festival Leisure Park	....	0947	1147	1347	1707
Basildon, Bus Station Stand R	0848	0955	1155	1355	1715
Basildon, Hospital	0855	....	....	....	1720

Basildon Hospital	....	....	....	1725	1825
Basildon, Bus Station Stand R	1000	1200	1400	1730	1830
Festival Leisure Park	1009	1209	1409	1739	1839
Miles Gray Road, B&Q	1012	1212	1412	1742	1842
CRAYS HILL, Shepherd & Dog	1019	1219	1419	1749	1849
RAMSDEN BELLHOUSE, Globe Road	1023	1223	1423	1753	1853
RAMSDEN HEATH, White Horse	1026	1226	1426	1756	1856
Wickford, Rail Station	1036	1236	1436	1806	1906
South Woodham Ferrers, A&D	1055	1255	1455	1825	1925

WICKFORD - RAMSDEN HEATH - CHELMSFORD

Regal Busways 14

Mondays to Saturdays	* NS * NS * S	NS
Wickford, Rail Station	0645 0735 0738 0855	1055 1255 1455 1655 1855
RAMSDEN HEATH, White Horse	0655 0745 0749 0905	1105 1305 1505 1705 1905
Galleywood, The Eagle	0719 0810 0813 0915	1115 1315 1515 1715 1915
Chelmsford, Bus Station	0734 0827 0826 0929	1129 1329 1529 1729 1929

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

NS = Not Saturdays S = Saturdays only
* = Operates via South and West Hanningfield as Service 15A

WICKFORD - CRAYS HILL - BILLERICAY - QUEENS PARK

NIBS 222

Mondays to Fridays										NSch			
Billericay, Rail Stn.		0700	0800	0910	1000			1400	1500	1600	1700	1800	
CRAYS HILL, Shep. & Dog	A	0710	0810	0920	1010			1410	1510	1610	1710	1810	
Wickford, opp. Swans		0625	0719	0835	0929	1019	Then	1419	1519	1619	1719	1819	
Wickford, Halls Cnr.		0627	0725	0837	0927	1027		1427	1527	1627	1727	B	
CRAYS HILL, Shep. & Dog		0633	0733	0843	0933	1033	hourly	1433	1533	1633	1733		
Billericay, Rail Stn.		0647	0747	0857	0947	1047	until	1447	1547	1647	1747		
Queens Pk, Arltn. Way		0653	0753	0905	0955	1055		1455	1555	1655	1755		
Billericay, Rail Stn.		0700	0800	0910	1000	1100		1500	1600	1700	1800		
Saturdays										Sundays NIBS 251			
Wickford, Halls Cnr.		0723	0823	0929	1023	1123	1223	1323	1423	1523	1623	1723	
CRAYS HILL, Shep. & Dog		0730	0831	0941	1031	1131	1231	1330	1430	1530	1630	1730	
Billericay, Rail Stn.		0743	0846	0956	1046	1146	1246	1343	1443	1543	1643	1743	
Queens Pk, Arltn. Way		0750	0853	1003	1053	1153	1253	1350	1450	1550	1650	1750	
Billericay, Rail Stn.		0755	0902	1012	1102	1202	1302	1355	1455	1555	1655	1755	
CRAYS HILL, Shep. & Dog		0807	0915	1025	1115	1215	1315	1407	1507	1607	1707	1807	
Wickford, Halls Cnr.		0812	0922	1032	1122	1222	1322	1412	1512	1612	1712	1812	

NSch = Not School Days Saturday journeys operate to and from The Wick
A = From Shotgate 0619 Sunday journeys operate through From Southend
B = To Shotgate arr. 1823 to Brentwood/Marley 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 5th	Amble Ramble	10.00am	Baptist Church Car Park
Saturday 12th	Whist Drive	7.15pm	Village Hall
Tuesday 15th	AGM Parish Council	7.30pm	Village Hall
Saturday 19th	Spring Fair	11am - Midday	Village Hall
Saturday 19th	Square Dance (contact 710260)	7.30pm	Village Hall
Saturday 26th	Quiz (contact 710757)	7.30pm	Village Hall

JUNE

Saturday 2nd	Crunch	9.00am - Midday	Village Hall
Saturday 9th	Whist Drive	7.15pm	Village Hall
Saturday 23rd	Fete and Flower Show	Midday	Village Hall
Sunday 24th	Baptist Church Anniversary	10.30am	Baptist Church

JULY

Saturday 7th	Crunch	9.00am - Midday	Village Hall
Tuesday 10th	St Mary's Garden Party	2pm	Bramhill Orchard Ave
Saturday 14th	BBQ (contact 710963)	3pm	Lakeland Homestead Rd
Saturday 14th	Whist Drive	7.15pm	Village Hall
Sunday 15th	Charity Garden Party (Tickets only contact 710619)	2.30 - 5.30pm	Ramsden Park

AUGUST

Monday 6th	Isabel's Garden Party	2.00pm	Bramhill Orchard Ave
Saturday 11th	Whist Drive	7.15pm	Village Hall
Saturday 25th	Art Show	10.00am - 4.00pm	Village Hall
Sunday 26th	Art Show	10.00am - 4.00pm	Village Hall
Monday 27th	Art Show	10.00am - 4.00pm	Village Hall
Saturday 25th	Flower Festival	2.00 - 5.00pm	St Mary's Church
Sunday 26th	Flower Festival	11.00am - 5.00pm	St Mary's Church
Monday 27th	Flower Festival	11.00am - 5.00pm	St Mary's Church

SEPTEMBER

Saturday 8th	Horticultural Autumn Show	2.30pm	Village Hall
Saturday 8th	Whist Drive	7.15pm	Village Hall

OCTOBER

Sunday 7th	Singing Day (contact 710613)	Midday - 6.00pm	Village Hall
Saturday 13th	Whist Drive	7.15pm	Village Hall

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	Basildon Police Station	532212
Village Hall	Chairman - Clive Jeffree	710559
	Booking Secretary - Vivienne Fisher	07772 630513
		01268 531441
	Secretary - Abby Short	01268 711675
	Treasurer - Derek Swan	710478
Magazine	Editor - Isabel Johnson	710428
	Advertising - Isabel Johnson	710428
Badminton	Fridays 8pm - 11pm - Karen Pearce	01268 711227
Dog Training	Monday (except 3rd in month) 7.15pm - 10pm - Rita Barber	01702 231189
St Mary's Church	Church Wardens - Beryl Clements	01245 601298
	- Len Fenis	710165
Horticultural	3rd Monday in the month except July, August and December - Joan Lewis	710893
Ladies Medau	Thursday 8pm - Veronica Greenwood	01702 559914
Cubs	Wed 5.45pm - 7.15pm - Janet Jeffree	710559
Scouts	Wed 7.30pm - 9.30pm except 2nd Wed in month - Clive Jeffree	710559
Baptist Church	Roger Newton	01268 710259
Bowls	Mon 7.30pm Wed 10am Fri 1.30pm - Kay Debenham	710765
Dancing Club	Every Sunday 7.30pm - 10.30pm General Dancing - Joan Telkman	710260
Whist Drive	Roy Richards (see Village Events)	710669
Line Dancing	Every Monday 2.00pm - 3.00pm Ken Dobson	710771
Essex County Library Mobile Van	Fortnightly Tuesday 3.30pm - 4.00pm	
Bellhouse Preschool Website	Mon to Fri 9.30am - www.ramsdenbellhouse.info	07881 448686



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