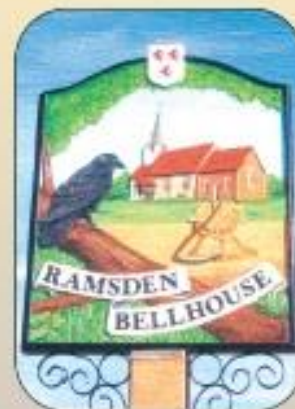


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A Word from the Editor

I am writing this on a beautiful September morning, but it will be Winter by the time you read this (or throw it in the bin as the case may be). Many of us will be preparing and looking forward to the Winter and the Christmas events taking place in our Village. But I have to ask this question. "Why are the events at our two churches and the Village Hall, so much more popular with residents outside Ramsden, than those with these amenities on their doorstep? We very much welcome our friends from surrounding areas, for the Village Hall constitution says the Hall is for use of residents of Ramsden Bellhouse and the surrounding areas. But why I ask, do the residents of Ramsden Bellhouse not wish to take advantage of our amenities.

The only time recently that the Village Hall was truly bursting at the seams was the Parish Council Meeting regarding the building of new homes in this Village I make no comments and opinions on spoiling the rural character of our village and I ask a further question - is not the rural character of our Village already spoiled? letters to me please at Bramhill, Orchard Avenue CM11 1PH - to be published in the next magazine. Lets give the postman something better to deliver than the usual rubbish pushed through our letter boxes!!

On a more positive note, it is a pleasure to walk along the footpath in Church Road, and find there is no dog poo. Well done all dog owners and dog walkers. There also seem to be less litter, and people seem to be cutting back brambles etc that encroach on the footpath. Well done again. But on a negative note, could I once more ask those with gravel or loose stone drives, to sweep their stones off the footpath. A single stone can cause and unsuspecting pedestrian to twist or even break an ankle.

Recently I had more "sitting about" time than usual and I looked again at a book of Bert Edwards poems. I use to regularly put one in each magazine, but as Bert is now in his nineties and not in the best of health, he has stopped sending me them. However I am including them again from his book. They still ring true and raise a smile. I hope you think so too.

Thanks to all involved in the production and delivery of this magazine. Copy for the next on or by March 20th please, either to me, but preferably email to bryan.diggory@sky.com. If you set your copy on a PC and have the use of the internet then please do send your copy to Bryan, as this saves time. I still edit and approve it, as eventually it all comes to me to make into our magazine.

Chairmans Report

The fine weather still continues which allows work to progress on the new War Memorial in the village hall grounds. At present we are awaiting a delivery of stone from China, it seems a long way to have to come but apparently most of the stone used in this is sourced there. Once it turns up progress will be quick as most of the foundation work is now complete. Once finished there will be a dedication ceremony involving both the village churches to which all are invited.

Work on the new kitchen is at present is on hold, the difficulty being, fitting it in around the bookings. Unfortunately we missed, this years summer recess as the contractor picked up a lot of extra work. It now looks as if we will have to wait until 2015 summer period when a slot of sufficient length can be found.

Minor repair work continues all the time, seized taps, table repairs, broken chairs, US lights all require funding. We are fortunate in that we are well supported by bookings which cover most of these expenses. So please keep coming to our events and join in.

Lastly this years charity events are in aid of ESSEX AIR AMBULANCE. One day you may need them so come along and support these events. Information will appear in the Web Site.

C. Jeffree

Ramsden Bellhouse Village Hall Chairman
ramsdenbellhouse.info



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Rev. Miranda Seaman, 01277 841921

Lay Reader: Mrs. Suzy Edmundson, 01245 224181

SERVICES:

1st Sunday: Evening Prayer 6.30pm

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 at St. Mary's, St. Margaret's Downham, or St. Peter's South Hanningfield.

You will note from the above that the Evening Services this winter will continue at 6.30pm, and not change to 3.00pm as in previous years.

On Monday mornings, a Coffee Morning, supported by both Village Churches, is held at the Emmanuel Hall at the Baptist Church. Everyone, women or men, is invited to drop in for a drink and a chat any time between 10.30am and Noon. The possibility of inviting a guest speaker, probably once a month, is being explored.

A new activity, Messy Church, has been started at St. Mary's on the second Saturday each month. Children are invited to come and take part in craft activities, story-telling and singing. Each child must be accompanied by an adult. Sessions run from 11am to 1pm and end up with lunch. Contact Suzy on 01245 224181 or Beryl on 01245 601298 for further information.

Our joint activities with our friends at the Baptist Church have followed the usual pattern, but there was high drama at St. Mary's on Palm Sunday. As usual, members of both Churches were assembling at the Baptist Church for a short service including distribution of Palm Crosses, before processing to St. Mary's for a joint service of Holy Communion. A similar service was due to take place at St. Mary's for those unable to make the walk from the Baptist Church. As this was about to begin, the lights in the Church flickered and went out and the organ fell silent. It was then realised that the vestry was filling with acrid smoke. Loud bangs were heard coming from outside, and on investigation it was seen that the plastic casing where the electric supply



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entered the tower was well alight, with flames licking the wooden tower. Fortunately the flames extinguished themselves before the woodwork could catch fire. A member quickly set off for the Baptist Church, and was just in time to stop the procession leaving there. The short service at St. Mary's went ahead in the open air, after which the less mobile took to their cars to go to the Baptist Church taking with them the Service books and Communion Vessels. The Service conducted by Stephen, went ahead in the Baptist Church, with their Pastor Jim giving the sermon as planned. We are very grateful to Jim and the Baptist fellowship for their co-operation and laying on refreshments at such short notice. When returning to St. Mary's afterwards, the electricity suppliers were already at work repairing the damage.

Further joint services with the Baptist Church have been or will be held on 13th July and 12th October, and of course both Churches will be involved in organising the Remembrance Sunday Service at the Village Hall at 10.45am on 9th November.

On the Fund Raising front other activities to replace the discontinued Spring and Autumn Fairs have taken place. On 21st June a successful

Strawberry Cream Tea in the Village Hall was attended by some 70 people and, with the raffle and sales of cakes and jams, raised an amazing £529.

On 20th July the Southend Vox Choir gave an outstanding concert in the Church, attended by some 80 people. Much positive feedback has been received, and they will certainly be invited back at some time in the future. A lovely warm evening allowed the Cheese and Wine Supper to be enjoyed in the open air, and the event raised £653.

Our biggest event of the year, the Flower Festival over the August Bank Holiday weekend, suffered mixed weather. Saturday afternoon and Sunday were fine warm days, with the open air Songs of Praise on Sunday well attended. Stalls and Ploughman's Lunches were well patronised. On Monday, however, it rained most of the day. Although quite a number of people came to view the floral displays and buy from the stalls which were well under cover, the weather obviously had an adverse effect on the attendance and the takings. Nevertheless the event managed to raise a creditable £2267.

The Annual Coffee Morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Care took place at St. Mary's on 26th September. A goodly array of tempting cakes, provided by the Cup Cake Ladies of Ramsden Heath was on display. This group gets great pleasure in making cakes for charitable purposes, and many people came from Ramsden Heath, which swelled the takings to a very creditable £377.40. Many thanks to everyone involved.

The last of our "new" events for the year was our Beetle Drive held at the Village Hall on 27th September. This was an enjoyable evening, although the attendance of about 30 was a little disappointing. We are very grateful to Marion Shillum who acted as M.C. as we had no experience ourselves with running a Beetle Drive. Thank you to all who helped organise the event and / or came to support it. The evening raised £266.50. As due to health problems Alan was unable to organise the usual Charity Quiz, the Church's main contribution to the Village Charity Effort, the possibility of running another Beetle Drive in November instead was suggested, and approved by a show of hands. We hope to recruit more players for this.

Looking forward to Christmas, our Carol Service will be held on Thursday 18th December at 7.30pm, and there will be the usual Midnight Holy Communion Service commencing at 11.30pm on Christmas Eve.

Alan Pegrum

A Women's Work

"A woman's work is never done"	The washing and the ironing
Now, is that really true?	Are always to be done,
Let's stop a while and think about	Some women do the gardening
What a woman has to do.	Some even find it fun!

First there is the cleaning	Then there's the job of nurse-maid,
To make the house look great,	Confidante and friend;
For, after all, a dirty home	And solving family problems
Is what most people hate.	Which can drive you round the bend.

Then, of course, there's cooking	Add to this the day-time telly,
To keep the family sweet;	And coffee with some friends,
For some this is a dreadful chore,	The manicures; the pedicures,
For others it's a treat!	The frenzy never ends!!

Jane Walsh



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Ingredients

4½ oz (125g) of melted butter
8oz (200g) caster sugar
1 lb (450g) self raising flour
3 large eggs
2 apples (cookers or dessert) peeled and diced

Topping

1 dessert apple sliced
Mixture of demerara sugar and cinnamon (to your taste)

Method

Preheat oven to 180C, gas 4, 375F.
Mix all ingredients together thoroughly.
Place in lined 8 inch (20 cm) cake tin.

Decorate with sliced dessert apple and sprinkle with the demerara sugar and cinnamon mixture.

Bake for approximately 1 hour or until a skewer, if pushed gently into the centre of the cake comes out clean.

Leave to cool for a short time before turning out onto a wire cooling tray.

Note:

This mixture is quite stiff but will cook to a good texture.

Joan Wright



Line Dancing

Since my last note in the Summer Magazine the Ramdsden Bellhouse Line Dancing Club are still enjoying weekly sessions Monday 2.p.m. £2.00 for an hour.(except Bank Holidays).

For anyone who has just moved into the village and might be interested in having a go at line dancing why not come along and watch our excellent teachers Lynn and Jean put us through our paces, you can just watch or join in and we are a friendly bunch, so put down your iron or your hedge cutters and please come down to the Village Hall, you will have an enjoyable time and will be made very welcome.

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Line Dancing at the Village Fete

Baptist Church

In the last Village Magazine I concluded with a brief mention that on the 8th March we held a "Men's Curry Night" which was well received and we planned to have another such evening in the future. However in a meeting in June it was decided to not hold another curry evening until early in 2015 due to a proposed Alpha course in the autumn this year.

As mentioned also in the last magazine, was our well attended and successful "Tea at the Ritz" and our intention to have another on June the 7th in 2014. This was confirmed in March and plans were drawn up for the event in June. Again it was a great success, and again well attended. The gentlemen were the waiters who were suitably dressed for the occasion, and served at the tables in the church hall on the afternoon. During the time there, there were two ladies visiting and taking part, one who sang and the other who gave her testimony of her faith in Christ.

The whole afternoon was well received and many people expressed their appreciation of the thought that had gone into the event and all the arrangements that had been made to make it a special time together.

Two months prior to the Tea at the Ritz we of course celebrated Easter. This began with a joint service with our friends from St Mary's which began at the Baptist Church and then proceeded down to the Anglican Church. However the venue had to be quickly changed to hold the second part of the service in our church, as a fire had occurred in St Mary's. Our church was full and Revd Stephen Robertson led the congregation through the planned service. Fortunately the fire was contained and little damage resulted.

On Good Friday our Minister Jim Hamilton led a meditative service as we considered the death of Jesus on the first "Good Friday". On Easter Sunday we of course celebrated Christ's resurrection from the dead and the great victory over death and the salvation he purchased for all who believed in Him.

During the following months Jim preached a series of talks at our Sunday services on the "sermon on the Mount". These ran through to August the 24th, and were very challenging and informative sermons on the words of Jesus.

Our Sunday service is held at 10.30am each week. Please come along and give us a try. You would be very welcome

Roger Newton

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Birds of the Bellhouse Summer 2014

This has been a most peculiar summer. Late spring, dry then lots of rain, strange weather fronts and some say the Jet stream has moved. These phenomena have affected the birds as well as the rest of us. The winter visitors stayed late and the summer ones were also late. I heard Blackcaps on 3rd April and not till 8th were Chiffchaffs seen, this bird a warbler with a monotonous "chiffchaff" call usually arrives in March.

Swallows normally arrive punctually on 4th April. I saw my first one on the 19th. Two weeks late. The last migrant the Swift comes on time on 4th May but this year they deigned to arrive on the 9th not too late. The shock of the year however was a report that the Turtledove was almost non-existent in England and I have not seen any this summer. Usually there are 2 pairs locally and they usually breed. Shooters in Malta have been blamed for their demise, but nobody in Europe is prepared to address the problem. Hopefully they will return next year. The resident birds have had a slightly better season. I saw blue and great tits, a few robins, wrens, dunnocks with quite a number of pigeons. The jay, crow and magpie have not had a good breeding season which was good news for the resident thrush which I believe bred.

Another interesting feature of the season is that I have had a number of sightings of Buzzard on one occasion 5 at once circling over the garden. The Sparrow Hawk has been seen regularly but the Kestrel is now a rare sight. Several Tawny owls have been heard calling late at night recently. On 8th September I saw a mighty flock of 60 Canada geese fly over and what a noise they made.

The strangest occurrence this year is that I have been adopted by a male Pheasant. He first arrived in December 2013 and has visited regularly most days since with the odd absence of a week or so. The bird came into the garden when I was filling up the bird feeders. Instead of running away he came towards me so I tossed him some corn which he ate ravenously. The next day I was sitting on the patio, the pheasant came right up to me and took a feed of grain from my hand. In August he brought 2 young to see me but I have not seen them since. The bird is easy to recognise as it has 2 claws missing on his left foot. Autumn is now here, saw the last of the swallows on 24th September and a calling chiffchaff on the same day.

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Bygone Years



Eversley

On March 6th 1915 Horace Abbott married Minnie Ruffels in West ham Church, and they came to live on the new Homestead Estate in Ramsden Bellhouse. As their bungalow in Orchard Avenue was not finished (builders behind schedule even then!), they lodged in "The Croft", which is still there today opposite the Village Hall. This was next door to Minnie's mum, who lived in "Chingford", now "Little Gearies".

By the time they moved into their new home "Eversley" in Orchard Avenue, Minnie was in early pregnancy, so Horace requested that their bungalow be thoroughly cleaned before they moved in. Homestead's foreman sent his wife, who was eight months pregnant! - but having already a large number of children herself was used to being permenly pregnant and doing housework!

So sometime in Summer 1915 the Abbotts moved into "Eversley" Orchard Avenue, which they had bought for roughly £300 together with two acres of land. Horace worked in London, but planned to have, and did have, a small holding of chickens, pigs and sheep, with the intention of giving up his daily commute to London. Soon it became apparent that

he was working in London to support his small holding! Small time farming was not as easy as a town lad had thought. Minnie was not able to cope with a growing family, (no gas or electricity or main drainage - no labour saving devices) and escaping sheep and the mating pigs! Minnie had many times to retrieve sheep half way to Crays Hill, leaving her young children in the care of the milkman!

So by the time daughter No 5 arrived, the small holding had gone, leaving behind chicken houses and pigsties for the children to play in! So the trees and bushes grew up on half of "Eversley", and the legend of "Fairyland" came into being. Horace told his daughters that part of "Eversley" was "Fairyland" and no-one ever had to worry what to do with the children in the holidays. Since then four generations of this family have played in "Fairyland", and shared its magic and wild-life.

It is there today, and Horace and Minnie's great, great, grandchildren play there and make up their imaginative games. I have it on good authority (Thomas aged 3) that there are at least five fairies living in the bird box down there. Furthermore, when the birds come home from work, they turn the fairies out and even though they cry, they have to spend the night sleeping rough!

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After Horace and Minnie died much of the land was sold, and now only ¾ acre remains in family possession, where daughter No 5 still lives. Most of "Fairyland" is still loved and cared for. Next year this family will have lived there 100 years. Incidentally, I am daughter No 5.

Isabel Johnson



Green Christmas

I think that decorations are often overdone
Why put up rows of fairy lights? You could make do with one.
Just think of all the energy this idea would save,
Enough to cook the pudding if you use a microwave.
Don't put up the paper chains, help to save a tree,
Nor mistletoe and holly even if you get them free.
What about the Christmas tree, is it really needed?
It could have a bird nest in if my advice was heeded.
You really shouldn't eat too much and cut down on the booze,
A cup of tea then watch T.V. and settle for a snooze.
On second thoughts it's Christmas, so let's all have a ball,
Bring out the port and pudding. God bless you one and all.

Bert Edwards



**Happy Christmas
to all our Readers**



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WEDDING FLOWERS

Personal Page

Congratulations to

Kish Raval from Hemmings Too on her 50th birthday on January 25th.

Audrey and Alan Pegrum of 'St Nicholas' Glebe Road on their Diamond Wedding on June 12th.

Jill and Eric Lewsey of 'Oklahoma' Orchard Avenue on their Diamond Wedding on June 26th.



Amar Madray of 'Attawa' Orchard Avenue on his marriage to **Rav Kahlon** on 17th August.

Kerry and Colin Ward on the birth of their son **Logan** on 18th August. Kerry lived as a child in 'Acorns' Orchard Avenue, and worked for some time in Hemmings Too. A grandson for Mike and Sheena.

Brian and Janet Smith on their Golden Wedding on September 12th.

Kelly Jackson and Mark Irvine, on their marriage at St Mary's Church on 5th September. Kelly is granddaughter to Derek and the late Pam Jackson.

Thanks to all the friends and neighbours who helped and cared for me after my accident last May. There is not enough space on this page to name you all, but suffice it to say, I could not have managed without you during that difficult time. God bless you all. *Isabel Johnson*

In Memory of

Ros Hood who died in September. Ros lived at one time in "Beulah" Glebe Road during which time she belonged to WI and supported many village events. Our sympathies go to her family.

If you wish to put in an entry, please send your entry to the Editor or to the email address "bryan.diggory@sky.com"

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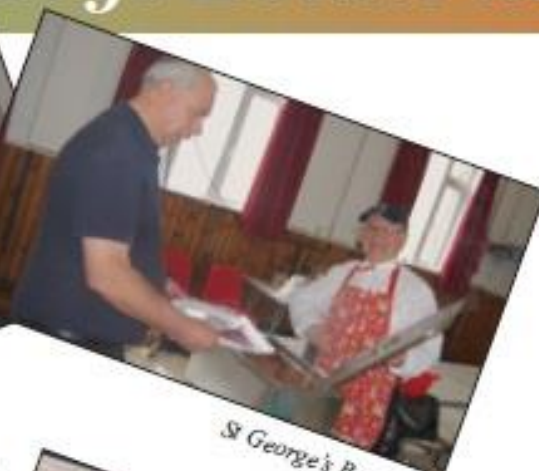
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Village Events throughout the year



St George's Breakfast



St George's Breakfast



Horticultural Flower Show



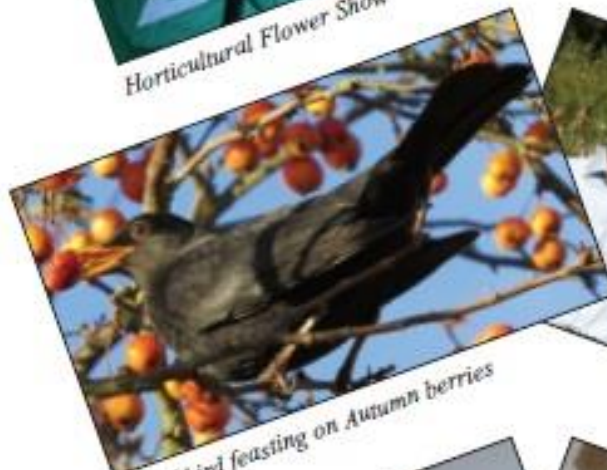
Horticultural Garden Party



St George's Breakfast



Planting Hanging Baskets



Blackbird feasting on Autumn berries



Peter Seabrook of TV fame visits the Horticultural Garden Party



Village Fete



Shire Horses at Barleylands



"Messy Church" window at Flower Festival



St Mary's Flower Festival

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Dancing

The Dance Club has enjoyed another good 6 months we have increased our membership and we hope to attract more new members. In May we held our Charity Square Dance which sold out. As usual our caller made the evening with his cryptic comments and humour we manage to raise a significant amount for the charity. We slightly broke with tradition this year and instead of dressing up in 'DJ's' and gowns for our Summer Ball, we all headed to Mamma Romantica in Rayleigh for a Club Dinner which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. We continue to celebrate our members significant birthdays and anniversaries with a buffet dance. Congratulations to Eric and Brenda celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary and to Betty who celebrated a 'magic number' birthday.

We meet every Sunday from 7.30 to 10.30 for Ballroom and Latin dancing and if you are taking Ballroom Dance lessons why not come and join us to practice your steps.

Barry Gardiner



Grahame Farley

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References Available

Bowls Club

Bowls sessions are still well attended which suggest members are keen to come along. The purchase of two new bowls mat's created a stir of excitement! Overheard were comments such as "my woods play differently" 'my woods have never shot across the mat like that before! 'more weight, or less weight required now! Some adjustments required it would seem. However we are coping, some better than others. Our newest members are coping with bowling very well, shaping up nicely showing great promise... future bowling stars? Arranged friendly matches have been played during the summer months prior to league team matches commencing again this autumn. Good luck, Rooks Ravens and Robins as you climb the league tables! Congratulations to the winners of our annual Bowls Competition.

Singles.....Tom Dine's Doubles.....Rita Smith and Eileen Smith

Thank you Roy for organising the events. Our Charity Event, Tea in the Garden was well supported by members and friends. The weather was pleasant enough to enable members to amble about the beautiful garden and try their luck with the games dotted about. More than generous amounts of tempting tasty, sandwiches, quiches, cakes and desserts were offered as refreshments. Many thanks Angela and Rusi for the use of your garden. A most delightful enjoyable afternoon. The Summer Fete with stalls and arranged activities was held at the Village Hall. For members who attended and helped organise our Bottle Tombola plus the Raffle, a grateful thank you. Much appreciated.

Bye for now Eileen Smith.



Rev Jean Andrews writes

It seems a little strange to be sitting down to write an article about autumn and winter when the sun is still warm, and I've only just returned from my summer holiday. But, it is September, the days are getting shorter and the nights cooler, so there's no doubt summer is nearly over. I always have mixed feelings about this time of year. It's sad to lose the long light evenings and the warmth of the sun, but autumn and winter can produce some stunning scenery, and there is Christmas to look forward to. In the church, during the last three months of the year, there are quite a lot of special festivals to look forward to.

November is a month for remembering those who have died, with All Saints Day All Souls Day, Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day. This year, no doubt, Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day will have an added poignancy as we commemorate the centenary of the start of World War 1.

And then comes December, with its build up to the great celebration of Christmas. In church, we prepare for Christmas during the season of Advent, and many families like to count down the days to Christmas using an Advent Calendar. Sadly, these days, most Advent Calendars available in the shops make no mention of the real meaning of Christmas, the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, when the Son of God was born as a vulnerable human baby, in order to live among us as one of us, to show us the extent of God's love for us. There is however, an alternative, with the Real Advent Calendar, available in Tesco stores, which contains a window for every day in December, with a chocolate, and also comes with a 32 page Christmas story-activity booklet designed to be used every day in Advent. So if you normally buy your family an Advent Calendar,



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why not try one of these and remind yourselves of the real meaning of Christmas?

Christmas, of course is the culmination of all this preparation and we shall be having our usual Christmas Services, details of which will be publicised round the village later. Attendance at some of these services has been disappointing in recent years. Many of our regular congregation are suffering from failing health and are unable to provide their usual support, which is causing great concern about the future of St Mary's. So this Christmas, we invite you to come along to your parish church, to celebrate this wonderful festival and to help us keep St Mary's alive as a place of worship, because a church consists of the people worshipping there, and is not just an historic building.

Revd Jean Andrews
Associate Priest



Scouts Report

We have had another great six months of scouting adventures, including our sporting patrol challenges of basketball, rounder's and newspaper hockey. Each of the four patrols plays against each other over a number of weeks, the scouts can be very competitive. The scouts have been working towards various badges such as the Electronics Badge, Promise Badge, and Community Badge. Each badge has several elements that the scouts need to achieve. As part of the community badge the scouts helped at the village hall fete and ran stalls at our annual end of term BBQ. They raised £145.50 for the village hall charity the Essex Air Ambulance. They also took part in a sensory evening with activities such as blindfold food tasting, blindfolded go-cart assault course and braille printing. It helped them appreciate how some people have to adapt if they lose one of their senses. They have also built mini siege catapults from wood and the scouts got to test their aim to see who could fire the furthest. We had our own version of the American Independence day, cooking burgers and hotdogs before changing the patrol challenge from rounder's to baseball for the evening.

We have had several out nights ranging from the traversing wall camp, pedal cars at the Thriftwood Scout Centre in Brentwood, a four mile hike around South Hanningfield field, and a fabulous evening canoeing in the

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lake at Barleylands. The scouts got the leaders soaked playing games such as tag and canoe rugby. A leader capsized first much to the pleasure of the scouts. The scout group held their AGM in June where most of the existing committee continued to stand and a couple of new parents also joined. Our annual end of term BBQ took place in July, where cubs, scouts and parents joined together to play rounder's and have fun. This went well in to the late evening. We said good-bye to our Group Scout Leader Paddy Smith and presented him with lovely scout whiskey glasses. Thanks Paddy for the work you have done for the group as a whole and the scout troop. If you would like any further details regarding the Cubs or Scouts please contact Jean Maker (Acting Group Scout Leader) on 07984 805305

jean@jeanmaker.wanadoo.co.uk



Cub Report

Last term the cubs learnt how to use maps as part of the outdoor challenge badge. They made contour models using foam sheets and plastacine, acted out grid references with canes and rope and compared old maps to modern maps as well as learning map symbols.

We walked from Ramsden Heath village hall to Crowsheath woods where the cubs did pond dipping in the pond and the stream, we found a few creatures and gained a few damp feet but no one fell in. They enjoyed it so much they wanted to do it again but when we went back the warmer weather had arrived and the stream was starting to dry up but some of them did see a fish in the pond.

The cubs had two opportunities to go to camp last term. The first camp was the cubs and scouts joining together for a weekend at Gilwell park (the home of national scouting). The theme for this camp was Spiderman, they did two different climbing activities, decorated t shirts, made film characters and lots of other things. The second camp was for cubs only they went by coach to Broadstone Warren in Sussex. This is a wooded site with a lot of places for making dens. On the Saturday we went on a hike and ended up at a local llama park, after making friends with the different animals, we enjoyed a welcome rest on the grass and an ice lolly before making our way back to the camp site. On the Sunday afternoon the cubs went swimming in the outdoor pool on the campsite,

lots of complaints about it being cold but it was heated and the sun was shining! This was one activity the leaders didn't take part in.

The six weeks holidays are behind us and winter is around the corner but we have some interesting things planned for Wednesday evenings at the hall and a one night camp in October.

If you know of any local young people under the age of seven who might like to join us when they reach seven and a half, please let me know. Contact details elsewhere in this magazine.

Akela



Fun Whist

Autumn, now round the corner for us all, with some beautiful sunny days to take us into the run up to Christmas. A few weeks ago we had a meeting with Basildon Council in the Village Hall to hear the proposals for potential building expansion in the Village and it was heart warming to see the New Hall packed with residents attending. It was remarked that



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Ramsden Bellhouse is still a village, but a sense of community is something we all have to work at to maintain. A few people still put in considerable efforts to run Community activities in the Hall and it is up to us all to acknowledge these personal commitments by supporting these activities. Whist is one of those activities, run by Roy on the second Saturday of each month, starting at 7.15pm. Do come along and have a go, not too serious, that is why it is run as Fun Whist!

Angela Hodivala



Dog Training

The past 6 months has seen some changes in the trainers at the Club. Gill Winyard decided to resign from the Committee and also from training the 9.15 class on Mondays but has stayed to do the Tuesday guest trainer evening once a month on Tuesdays. Pat Keeble is still taking the 9.15 class alternate months with myself (Rita Barber) taking the class the other month. Kim Rogers has agreed to take the 8.45 class on the month that I am taking the 9.15 class.



It has proved necessary to remind Tuesday members that they are expected to attend on Monday nights as this is a requirement to go on the Tuesday list

We had a 3 way match with a couple of local clubs, Witham and Halstead, organized by Halstead whereby our team came 1st. A very good result considering a few of our team had never competed before and they put up a very good effort, especially Chris and Rodney who were dragged in at the last minute.

Many of our members have been doing extremely well at shows this year with a number of people moving up the classes - Well Done to all of you and good luck at the last few shows.

NEWS AND DATES CAN BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE: rbdtc.webs.com. PLEASE JOIN THE WEBSITE AS MEMBERS.

Rita Barber - Secretary

PLEASE KEEP OUR VILLAGE TIDY

Teddies for Tragedies Essex Branch

As I write this report it is a year since I fell down the stairs and broke my neck, but I am delighted to tell you that I am at last feeling much better and at the end of September I will be able to drive again.



A young lad in Kosovo put on his wish list a piano. In time Hope & Aid Direct who do the humanitarian convoys to Kosovo had a grand piano donated to them. It had been serviced and tuned before handing it over. The piano was put on a lorry on its side and our packs of teddies, clowns, blankets and knitted items were packed all around it for protection as travelling to Kosovo involved going over very harsh terrain. On arrival the piano was off loaded and humped up many stairs to a very damp warehouse where it stood for several days on crates as the legs had been taken off. It was then taken back down the stairs and driven to its location. After involving many more stairs getting it into position, the legs were screwed back on and in came the young lad who sat down and immediately played Fur Elise by Beethoven. Everybody there was astounded as the piano was still completely in tune, and many tears



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flowed as they saw the complete happiness on the young lad's face. This was recorded so I was able to hear the rendition on their arrival back in England. It was absolutely lovely and it was great that our packs of soft teddies, clowns etc. were able to help.

Since the last magazine 3695 teddies, together with clowns, blankets, jumpers, hats etc. have gone out to Kosovo going in to many schools, hospitals and homes. Many thanks to the 'Teddy Baggers' who still meet at Isabel's home to put the teddies into their individual material bags and for sewing up very small blankets and knitted squares to make large blankets. As many of you know Isabel broke her ankle earlier in the year and the large special boot and knee brace which she was given by the hospital they would not take back. I am pleased to say these items are now being used in a hospital in Kosovo so if any readers have medical items such as these including crutches please let me have them as hospitals abroad are so very happy to take them.

Keep warm over the winter and I wish you a wonderful Christmas and a very happy new year. God bless.

Audrey Pegrum MBE Essex Branch Organiser



Horticultural

We enjoyed a wide variety of talks before the summer break. In March we had a talk on "Bees", and in April Tony Rogers showed slides on the Hudson Valley Gardens. "Buds and Baskets" was the talk and demonstration in May. Did you see the baskets we did with the help of the Pre School at the Village Hall. The visit to Philippa and Derek's garden



in June was very much enjoyed both for the hospitality received and the tea and cakes. In July our talk was on "Are Weeds Flowers?"

Our Summer Show was held with the Village Fete in June, and "Tea in the Garden," at Rusi and Angela's in August was much enjoyed and appreciated. The Autumn Show was the best for some time, with excellent vegetables and flowers, especially a lovely display of roses. We had a good number of visitors in the afternoon. Thank you all the helpers.

Our September meeting was "Flower Arranging. The Hut will be closed by the time this goes to press. The AGM is on Nov 17th. Please come come along and tell us how you want the Society to move forward. We hope to see more members, new, past and present at our meetings, which are held on the third Monday or each month except December at 8pm. Look on the notice board for more information. This leaves me only to wish you all, very early seasonal greetings.

Marion Shillum





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Supermarket Blues

The manager was bored one day and gathered round his staff,
He said "Let's rearrange the store, it's bound to raise a laugh.
We'll have a sort of treasure hunt and leave misleading clues,
If customers wander round the aisles they can't be forming queues.

I'm open to suggestions, the nuttier the better,
Either shout them out or put them in a letter".
A youthful supervisor said, "I've got a good idea,
Let's put the macaroni cheese behind those crates of beer".

Suggestions followed thick and fast, amidst great roars of laughter,
Some were simply stupid and others even dafter.
A stockman said "We're wasting time filling up the shelves,
We ought to make them higher so that folk can't help themselves"

Shall we try a special offer of vanilla ice cream blocks?
But for goodness sake make certain that we haven't any stocks"
Said a lad who gathered trolleys but was training as a baker,
"I'd like to volunteer to be the chief biscuit breaker"

"We'll put honey, bread and bacon, with packs of cheddar cheese,
They've nothing else in common but they all begin with B's.
For those of you who haven't heard, here's the latest news,
We've got a group of buskers in to entertain the queues".

But customers got fewer and they had to close the store,
Chairman told the manager "you're not needed any more.
Unnecessary changes are little short of crime,
Customers will not put up with so much waste of time.

Bert Edwards

PLEASE KEEP OUR VILLAGE TIDY

"I don't believe it"

On Saturday 27th September, I posted a letter to "RED ROOFS"
Orford, Woodbridge, SUFFOLK, properly addressed with the correct post
code. Two days later it was delivered to "RED ROOFS" Homestead
Road, Ramsden Bellhouse, ESSEX. And having performed this peculiar
feat, the letter, which contained copy for this magazine was partially
devoured by the dog at Red Roofs, Ramsden Bellhouse!! You may think
this very amusing - *but can you explain it?*

Editor

The editor will appreciate any original articles
poems, relevant pictures and written opinions.
Please email them to Bryan at the address on page one
or post them to Isabel at
Bramhill, Orchard Avenue,
Ramsden Bellhouse CM11 1PH

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Village Hall Social Events

As mentioned in my last report the St. George's Day Breakfast took place and was a huge success, we served a total of 191 people over the course of three hours. Thank you for your support, we were asked "Why don't you do this once a month"!!, it will be a while before that happens as help would be needed from those of you that are still to decide whether you want to get involved with village life !

For those that did come I hope we will see you again next year and remember to bring your friends and family again.

The fete happened with a a gloomy forecast predicted which disappointingly kept some people away from attending, which is a shame given the effort put in by the organisers, however the sun did come out and we enjoyed a very pleasant afternoon and the predicted rain didn't arrive until after the fete had finished. The Craft Stalls, Bouncy Castle and the Football Shootout were popular - £3.00 for unlimited use for either was a good deal. Majorettes, Line Dancing and a Martial Art Display went down very well.

The Christmas Bazaar takes place on the 29th November, lots of Craft Stalls, Father Christmas and a Fancy Dress Competition to name but a few. For those of you that want to get involved and enjoy village activities, please come along and participate in the various events that take place at Ramsden Bellhouse Village Hall, as a registered charity it needs your continued support.

Ann Wellborne, Social Secretary



Photos taken by Wendy Swift
Dick Wellborne
Ann Wellborne



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South Woodham, Asda	08.00	09.00	11.00	13.00	16.20
South Woodham, Rail Station	08.04	09.04	11.04	13.04	16.24
Woodham Rd, Opposite Butterfly Farm	08.07	09.08	11.08	13.08	16.28
Rettendon, TurnPike Comer	08.11	09.13	11.13	13.13	16.33
Runwell, Church	08.14	09.16	11.16	13.16	16.36
Wickford, Rail Station	08.17	09.19	11.19	13.19	16.39
Brock Hill, Downham Road	08.21	09.23	11.23	13.23	16.43
Ramsden Heath, White Horse	08.27	09.29	11.29	13.29	16.49
Ramsden Bellhouse, Glebe Rd	08.30	09.32	11.32	13.32	16.52
Crays Hill, Shepherd & Dog	08.34	09.36	11.36	13.36	16.56
Noak Bridge, South Wash Road	08.38	09.41	11.41	13.41	17.01
Miles Gray Road, OPPOSITE B&Q	08.40	09.43	11.43	13.43	17.03
Festival Leisure Park	---	09.47	11.47	13.47	17.07
Ghyllgrove, Opposite Audley Way	---	09.51	11.51	13.51	17.11
Basildon, Bus Station Stand R	08.48	09.55	11.55	13.55	17.15
Basildon Hospital	08.55	---	---	---	17.20

NS

Basildon Hospital	---	---	---	17.25	18.25
Basildon, Bus Station Stand R	10.00	12.00	14.00	17.30	18.30
Ghyllgrove, Audley Way	10.04	12.04	14.04	17.34	18.34
Festival Leisure Park	10.08	12.08	14.08	17.38	18.38
Miles Gray Road, B&Q	10.12	12.12	14.12	17.42	18.42
Noak Bridge, South Wash Road	10.14	12.14	14.14	17.46	18.46
Crays Hill, Opposite ShePherd & Dog	10.19	12.19	14.19	17.49	18.49
Ramsden Bellhouse, Glebe Rd	10.23	12.23	14.23	17.53	18.53
Ramsden Heath, White Horse	10.26	12.26	14.26	17.56	18.56
Brock Hill, Downham Road	10.32	12.32	14.32	18.02	19.02
Wickford, Rail Station	10.36	12.36	14.36	18.06	19.06
Runwell, Quart Pot	10.39	12.39	14.39	18.09	19.08
Rettendon, TurnPike Comer	10.42	12.42	14.42	18.12	19.12
Woodham Rd, Butterfly Farm	10.47	12.47	14.47	18.77	19.77
South Woodham, Opposite Rail Station	10.51	12.51	14.51	18.21	19.27
South Woodham, Asda	10.55	12.55	14.55	18.25	19.25

Key: NS Not Saturdays

Village Events

NOVEMBER

Saturday 8th	Fun Whist	7.15pm	Village Hall
Sunday 9th	Remembrance Service	10.45am	Village Hall
Saturday 22nd	Beetle Drive <i>in aid of Essex Air Ambulance</i>	7.30pm	Village Hall
Saturday 29th	Christmas Bazaar	12 Midday	Village Hall

DECEMBER

Saturday 13th	Crunch	9.00am - Midday	Village Hall
Saturday 13th	Fun Whist	7.15pm	Village Hall
Thursday 18th	Carol Service	7.30pm	St Mary's Church
Sunday 21st	Carols by Candlelight	4.00pm	Baptist Church
Wednesday 24th	Midnight Mass	11.30pm	St Mary's Church

JANUARY 2015

Saturday 10th	Fun Whist	7.15pm	Village Hall
Sunday 25th	Village Hall AGM	3.00pm	Village Hall
Saturday 31st	Crunch	9.00am - Midday	Village Hall

FEBRUARY

Saturday 14th	Fun Whist	7.15pm	Village Hall
Saturday 28th	History of Ramsden Exhibition 2	5pm	Village Hall

MARCH

Sunday 1st	History of Ramsden Exhibition 1	11am - 5pm	Village Hall
Friday 6th	Women's World Day of Prayer	10.30am	Baptist Church
Saturday 14th	Crunch	9.00am - Midday	Village Hall
Saturday 14th	Fun Whist	7.15pm	Village Hall

APRIL

Saturday 11th	Fun Whist	7.15pm	Village Hall
Sunday 26th	St Georges Breakfast	9am - Midday	Village Hall

Village Directory

Village Hall	Chairman	- Clive Jeffree	01268 710559
	Booking Secretary	- Vivienne Fisher	07772 630513
			01268 531441
	Secretary	- Abby Short	01268 711675
	Treasurer	- Derek Swan	01268 710478
	Social Secretary	- Ann Wellborne	01268 710250
Magazine	Editor	- Isabel Johnson	01268 710428
	Advertising	- Isabel Johnson	01268 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 Ferris	01268 710165
Horticultural	3rd Monday in the month except July, August and December	- Rusi Hodivala	01268 710619
Ladies Medau	Thursday 8pm	- Veronica Greenwood	01702 559914
Cubs	Wed 5.45pm - 7.15pm	- Lin Prince	01268 710143
Scouts	Wed 7.30pm - 9.30pm except 2nd Wed in month		
		- Chris Maker	01277 652337
Baptist Church	Roger Newton		01268 710259
Bowls	Mon 7.30pm		
	Wed 10am		
	Fri 1.30pm	- Angela Hodivala	01268 710619
Dancing Club	Every Sunday 7.30pm - 10.30pm		
	General Dancing	- Barry Gardiner	07702 233898
Whist Drive	Roy Richards (see Village Events)		01268 710669
Line Dancing	Every Monday 2.00pm - 3.00pm	Ken Dobson	01268 710771
Essex County Library Mobile Van	Fortnightly Tuesday 3.30pm - 4.00pm		
Bellhouse Preschool	Mon to Fri 9.30am	-	07881 448686
Website	www.ramsdenbellhouse.info		
Ramsden Parish Council	Karen Plumridge Clerk		01245 400628



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