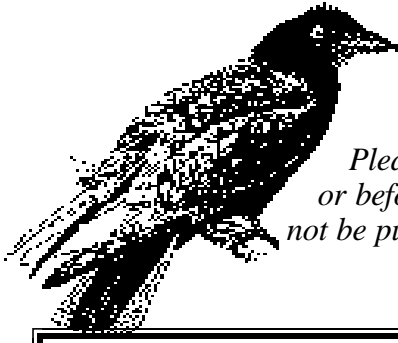


Ramsbury and Axford Village Diary

December 2001

Please may we have items for the January diary VERY PROMPTLY by 17 December or before, due to the printer being closed for Christmas week, material received late will not be published in the January Diary. Items may be left with Sylvia Judge, 55 High Street



NATURE NOTES

It has been quite a variable month with sudden changes from bright sunny mornings turning to heavy cloud or rain by afternoon. November 6th was just such a day when it was grand travelling over the downs in the morning, but the afternoon degenerated to thick cloud and misty rain. At that time the great bindweed was still flowering in Swans Bottom, to be followed by a sharp frost a few days later which finished the dahlias and cosmos for the year.

It is surprising how a few hard frosts cause a rapid fall of the leaves and the beeches to display their grand autumn colours, also the guelder rose with red leaves as well as its bright berries. Speaking of berries there were garlands of them on the spruce trees at Axford, although the leaves of the black briony had been shed, some of the holly also had a good berry crop this year.

*The fruiting bodies of the honey fungus have now died away for another year although their underground "bootlace" threads will still be bringing death to susceptible shrubs. This year it seems to have been particularly widespread in the Schollards Lane area. I have also found a good display of beech tuft (*oudemansiella mucida*). This extended for several feet up a dead beech stump, it is also called porcelain or poached egg fungus, the latter name due to the thick colourless slime on its white cap, this fungus only attacks dead wood. The frosts should have killed the last wasps. At the beginning of the month I found two very sleepy ones while window cleaning, a few red admirals were also around at that time.*

One morning there was a fairly large dead fish by the Kennet bridge, but the goldfish is still surviving not having fallen victim to the heron, which I have seen on several occasions lately, may it not become his Christmas meal. Rosie Pauline.

BIRD NOTES

I have had the pleasure of working in Mill Lane for the past month. The highlights of working there included a brief visit by a hummingbird hawkmoth, and seeing a Kingfisher catching a minnow within a few yards of us, but watching a Heron hunting at close quarters was the real gem! It struck into the water and then came up with a Lamprey. It then spent the next couple of minutes trying to arrange this squirming fish in its bill before it could eat it, alas it stalked off up stream so I did not see the finale.

Red Kite sightings over the last month have included three seen over the playing fields, two of which were disturbed in a field near the Axford Pumping Station, and there was a sighting of a single bird flying lethargically over Seven Bridges. A Cetti's Warbler was also heard briefly at Seven Bridges in late October. John Marshall.

RAINFALL

The rainfall for the month to 18 November was 3.13 inches, average 3.40 inches.

RAMSBURY LUNCHEON CLUB

The Club which provides lunches for older villagers in the Church Room on a fortnightly basis during school terms, needs more helpers and drivers. Helpers assist with setting up the tables, waiting and washing up etc. Drivers collect the less mobile guests from their homes at about 12.15pm and return them about 2.15pm. These duties for volunteers come up about once a term. Please VOLUNTEER. Harriet Jennings (521042) or Peter Brown (520776) would be pleased to give you more information.

GUESS THE FACES QUIZ IN AID OF THE RED CROSS

Ena Wordsworth's "Guess the faces Quiz" will be on sale in local shops at the beginning of December. The competition will be in aid of the Red Cross.

PREGNANCY YOGA CLASSES

Yoga for Pregnancy has become so popular that two classes will be held each week from the beginning of December. Weekly classes are recommended from the 14th week, but you can join a class at any time - on Wednesday evening from 7.30 to 9.30pm, or Friday from 10.30am to 12.30pm Prior booking is essential. Telephone Alice Charlwood (520107).

RAMSBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

The Bazaar will be held on Saturday 1 December from 10am to 12 noon, with the usual stalls and gifts.

WI

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 6 December at 7.45pm in the Methodist School Room. There will be a demonstration of wreath making, and other crafty ideas for Christmas by the "Garden Party", with an opportunity to buy wreath kits and other items at the end of the meeting.

The Membury Fort Group Carol Concert will be held on Monday 10 December at 7.30pm in Baydon Church.

SKIPS

There will be Skips at Knowledge Crescent and Axford on Friday 7 December.

GUIDED WALK

There will be a Guided Walk on Sunday 9 December to Piggs Hill. Meet at the Tree and share cars to Preston with dogs under control. Ronny Price 520652.

THE FLYER

The next trip to Newbury will be on Thursday 13 December leaving the Tree at 11.30am. There will be a shopping trip to London on Saturday 8 December leaving the Tree at 8.30am and returning about 6.30pm. The fare for this trip is £8. The Flyer will not run to Hungerford on Boxing Day.

ARTHRITIS RESEARCH MUSICAL EVENING

The Annual Musical Evening in aid of Arthritis Research will be on Saturday 8 December at 7.30pm in the Church Room. "Just for Fun" includes familiar and not so familiar singers, saxophonists, violinists, and those masters of the monologue, the Vicar of Hungerford and the redoubtable Mr Peter Kearns. Whether you are a regular supporter, or have never been before, we would be delighted if you came along to enjoy the evening with us. Tickets £4 from Mills Butchers or from Caroline Franklin (520496).

CAROL SINGING 2001 RAMSBURY METHODIST CHURCH

Carols will be sung around the Parish during the lead up to Christmas to raise money for various charities and to bring Christmas Cheer to all villagers. We meet each evening at the Chapel, Oxford St at 6.55pm.

On Monday 17 with the Band in the Square, Tuesday 18 Crowood Lane & Ashley Piece, Wednesday 19 Whittonditch to the Paddocks, Thursday 20 Knowledge Crescent, Hilldrop via Back Lane to Ramsbury Hill by invitation, Friday 21 Axford ending at The Red Lion, Saturday 22 from Hilldrop Farm to Orchard Close, Isles Court and Road, Swans Close and Chapel Lane, Monday 24 The Square, High Street to the end via Dr & Mrs Tiplady for refreshment.

CAROL SINGING THE 101st YEAR

This will be the 101st year that Ramsbury villagers have joined together to sing traditional carols known to all. And this year we shall sing some unusual carols, unique to Ramsbury which have only now been put down on paper. But the singers are finding it more difficult to gather the much needed and vital support to come and sing the carols and help with the door to door collection. Please do come and join the singers either at the rendezvous or later on their round. For further information please contact Gloria Passmore (520824) or David Hunter (511122/512439)

COFFEE CENTRE

The Christmas Raffle Draw will take place on Thursday 20 December at 10.30am in the Red Cross Room. If you would like to donate a prize for the Raffle, please bring it to the Coffee Centre or call Julia Coe (521085)

Thank you.

RAMSBURY SILVER BAND

The Silver Band will be giving their Annual Christmas Concert on Friday 21 December at 7pm in the Church Room. Come along and enjoy an evening for everyone which will include many Christmas favourites. There will be no admission charge, but if you enjoy yourself you may like to contribute to a retiring collection

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN RAMSBURY

<i>Service</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Service</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Place</i>
<i>Advent Carol</i>	<i>02 Dec</i>	<i>6pm</i>	<i>RMC</i>	<i>Crib</i>	<i>24 Dec</i>	<i>4.00pm</i>	<i>RMC</i>
<i>Christingle Carol</i>	<i>09 Dec</i>	<i>5.30pm</i>	<i>Holy Cross</i>	<i>M'Mass</i>	<i>24 Dec</i>	<i>11.30pm</i>	<i>Holy Cross</i>
<i>Carol</i>	<i>16 Dec</i>	<i>6pm</i>	<i>RMC</i>	<i>Christmas Day</i>		<i>9.30am</i>	<i>Holy Cross</i>
<i>Carol</i>	<i>23 Dec</i>	<i>5pm</i>	<i>Holy Cross</i>	<i>Christmas Day</i>		<i>10.30am</i>	<i>RMC</i>

THANKS

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

The total amount of money raised for the Poppy Day Appeal by the RBL amounted to £1940. This includes the £445 taken at the collection during the Remembrance Day service. The organiser John Plenderleith would like to thank all helpers and collectors, and those who gave generously.

AFGHANISTAN

The Christian Aid collection for refugees amounted to £100.50. Many thanks to all and also to the Post Office.

ART IN PROSPECT

The organisers of the "Art in Prospect" Exhibition in Ramsbury are very grateful for all the donations they received by post and at the door for the Prospect Hospice in Wroughton. The total amounted to £3019.08.

A MESSAGE FROM SWINDON

Earlier this year my colleagues in Swindon requested help to visit their patients at home as they were experiencing an acute nursing shortage. At that time Ramsbury was fully staffed and I offered to go and help out. It was a major change for me and now I know my way around Swindon.

I was offered the Post permanently and decided to stay. There was no time to say farewell because the move happened so quickly. I have so many wonderful memories of my privileged years as your District Nurse, and miss working with such a caring and supportive team of Doctors. I keep in touch through my friends and will be in the village from time to time but out of uniform.

With very best wishes Mary Edwins

ADVANCE NOTICE

EPIPHANY PARTY

There will be an Epiphany Party on Saturday 5 January from 2-5pm for children of Primary School age. The entertainant will be by Razamatazz. Tickets available from Mills Butchers price £1.

POSTNATAL YOGA & BABY MASSAGE CLASSES

It is hoped that the popular six class course can be repeated in the New Year. This is a class for mothers with their babies (from newborn up to 6 months) which begins with an hour of simple baby massage, followed by some gentle yoga stretching and relaxation for the mums. A creche worker will be there to look after the babies. Please telephone Alice Charlwood (520107)

NEW YEAR'S DAY WALK

Ronny & Priscilla invite all the family, visitors and dogs to join them on a short walk at 2pm at the Tree.

WI NEW YEAR PARTY

There will be a New Year Party on Thursday 10 January at 7.30pm in the Church Room. Entertainment by Caroline Franklin and Moya Dixon, Tickets £4.50 to include 2 course buffet with wine.

RAMSBURY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

On Thursday 10 January 2002 there will be a Quiz with Lambourne in Lambourne Village Hall. The Society hopes that members will support the Ramsbury team.

The AGM of the Society will be held on Monday 28 January at 7.45pm in the Memorial Hall

Published by Ramsbury Amenity Group