

# Ramsbury and Axford Village Diary



## November 2001

Please may we have items for the December diary by 18 November. They may be left with Ben Tottenham, Vicarage Cottage, Back Lane, with Sylvia Judge, 55 High Street, at the shop counter at the Post Office or sent by email to [diary@ramsbury.com](mailto:diary@ramsbury.com)

### **Nature Notes**

Writing about November in mid October reminds me that winter will soon be with us although it is still mild and as yet frost free. Every season however has its compensations, the brassicas are now recovering from the plague of caterpillars and the autumn colours are beginning to develop. Hopefully the slugs and snails will soon go into hibernation. This year I have found small flattish snails and their white eggs on the spinach, not the usual garden snail but one of the glass snails perhaps? I have also come upon a slug which is rather short and fat, about three times the size of the garden slug, fortunately it was not in my garden.

During September while in Somerset I saw a hornet hovering around some flowers, it was the first one that I have seen for many years. I expect you have noticed that there have been very few wasps about this summer, an advantage for those with plums and grapes but they do help to keep some undesirable insects under control. It may be the season for cloud, mist and rain but when the sun breaks through there can be some delightful lighting effects both in the sky and the vegetation, while at ground level fungi can be seen both in the garden and woodland areas. By a rotting conifer stump I found a toadstool with the English name of plums and custard (*Tricholomopsis Rutilans*) so called because of its purplish cap and yellow gills - it is not good to eat. There was also a *Russula* on the lawn, a family whose colour washes off in the rain, and this had made identification difficult as it probably had a yellow cap.

This is the season when various insects seek the shelter of one's home. The other day a small black and white moth was on my window frame - a Garden Carpet Moth. Ladybirds also begin to come in at this season and lacewings, both of which have not been very noticeable during the summer.

*Rosie Pauline*

### **Bird Notes**

I had a first this October, I saw a Raven flying over Ramsbury High Street. It was being mobbed by some Rooks, even though it was at least seven inches bigger. The Raven has a distinctive wedge shaped tail and a deep croaking Pruk Pruk call. This bird does breed in Wiltshire, but it's a real gem in these parts.

As I write this on 16 October the first Redwings are arriving from Scandinavia. Possibly the last House Martins were seen today over Ambrose Farm getting ready to leave for Africa.

Exotics this month include two Red Kite which were seen near New Buildings, Hilldrop and over the playing fields. Two Peregrine Falcons flew leisurely over Knowledge Hill - all other birds keeping a respectful distance! Cetti's Warbler was singing in the Nature Reserve at the beginning of October, Green Sandpiper are still at the slurry pit at Park Farm, and three Willow Tit were heard calling to one another at Seven Bridges in late September.

*John Marshall*

### **Rainfall**

The rainfall for the month to 18 October was 3.37 inches, average 2.75 inches. The summer months from April to September show a rain fall of 12.68 inches, average 13.84 inches.

### **Parish Walks**

The Parish Walk on Sunday 14 October to Park Farm ending with Tea in the Memorial Hall, provided by the Parish Council, was enjoyed by 30 people of all ages and a number of dogs.

There will be Guided Walks of about 4 miles on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month, starting from the Tree as there seemed to be sufficient interest. On Sunday 11 November sharing cars to Axford, the walk will go to Sound Bottom. On Sunday 25 November sharing cars to Whittonditch, the walk will go to Crooked Soley. Everyone is welcome. Bring your friends and neighbours.

## ***HM The Queen's Golden Jubilee Celebrations***

The Parish Council in conjunction with the Recreation Centre are preparing a Celebration Weekend from

1st to 3rd June 2002.

On Saturday 1 June there will be a Street Fair with a Walking Procession, Fancy Dress Parade, decorated bicycles and the Ramsbury Silver Band.

On Sunday 2 June there will be a Concert, Walking Treasure Hunt, Exhibitions and Golden Jubilee Tea.

On Monday 3 June A Fun day will include a Soap Box Derby, BBQ and other High Street events.

There will also be evening functions on Saturday and Monday

More details will follow.

Any offers of help or ideas would be welcomed by Sheila Glass on 520409 or Ian Smith on 520871.

## ***Ramsbury WI***

The next meeting will be on Thursday 1 November at 7.45pm in the Methodist School Room. Mr Richard Jordan-Baker, the property manager of Basildon Park, will give an illustrated talk on this elegant National Trust property. The competition will be a photograph of a National Trust property (including gardens). There will be a trading stall, which this month will provide an opportunity to sell all those things we have bought thinking that it was a good idea at the time, but that linger unused (and possibly still wrapped!) at the back of our cupboards. Bring them along and recycle them before Christmas.

## ***Royal British Legion***

The AGM of the Ramsbury Branch will be held on Friday 2 November at 7.30pm in the Club. The Hon Secretary wishes to remind members that subscriptions for 2001/2 are now due. The combined Branch and Club subscription is £10 which can be paid at the club or sent to the Secretary Ian McLoughlin at 35 High Street.

## ***Ramsbury Charities***

The Trustees of the Ramsbury Charities are meeting on 3 November. The Clerk to the Charities Miss M Dixon 32 Knowledge Crescent would welcome applications for financial assistance from local organisations or students embarking on further education.

## ***Village Design Statement***

At meetings in August and September, the VDS Project Committee received and processed 30 sets of notes and suggestions for the VDS, and agreed a structure for the first draft. There is still time for anyone to send in opinions on the future design of Ramsbury which would be welcomed by John Kirkman at Witcha Cottage, SN8 2HQ Tel 520429.

## ***Ramsbury Horticultural Society***

The next meeting of the Society will be on Monday 5 November at 7.45pm in the Methodist School Room, when Elizabeth Farmer will give a talk on "Pansies, Violas and Sweet Violets".

## ***The Flyer***

The Flyer will be visiting Newbury on Thursday 8 November leaving from the Tree at 11.30am and arriving back at about 3pm. There will be a shopping trip to Bath on Monday 12 November leaving the Tree at 9.30am. The cost for this is £5, and at the time of writing this trip is fully booked, but to find out if there is a cancellation, ring Muriel Lye on 520555.

## ***Skip***

There will be a Skip at Whittonditch on Friday 9 November.

## ***Annual Craft Market***

The Annual Craft Market will be held on Saturday 10 November from 10am to noon in the Methodist Room. There will be a large selection of hand craft goods for sale in time for the Christmas season. Refreshments will be available. T Rissone.

## ***Royal British Legion Remembrance Sunday***

The Royal British Legion is this year celebrating its 80th Anniversary, and the usual parade will take place at 10.30am on Sunday 11 November in the Square followed by the Service of Remembrance in Holy Cross. In the event of wet weather a decision will be taken at 10.20am on a wet weather

programme. A reception and buffet will be held after the service, in the Club, where members and guests will be most welcome.

### ***Ravensbury Players***

The Players have a Tabletop Sale from 10am to 1pm in the Memorial Hall on Saturday 3 November. Contact Gaye Adolph 520068. Tables available £10 in advance.

### ***Ramsbury Meals on Wheels***

The AGM of Ramsbury Meals on Wheels will be held on Monday 12 November at 10.30am in the Red Cross Rooms. Membership of the Charity is open to all, cooks and deliverers, and anyone over the age of 18 who may be interested in becoming a member will be most welcome. Jane Handford Chairman.

### ***Ramsbury Amenity Group***

The Amenity Group will be holding their usual Autumn Supper on Thursday 15 November at 7.30pm for 8pm in the Memorial Hall. The speaker will be Mr James Drummond the Butler at Littlecote House. Tickets price £4.00 from Mills Butchers, the Post Office and Midway Stores.

### ***Ramsbury Pre-School Disco***

Ramsbury Pre-School Disco will be held from 8pm 'til late on Saturday 17 November in the Memorial Hall. Come long and boogie down at a good fun evening. Tickets £7.50 available from Debbie Marshall 520926, Rosemarie Court on 520181, or from Ramsbury Pre-School to which all proceeds will go.

### ***Ramsbury Toddler Group***

The Toddler Group will meet on Wednesday 21 to make Christmas Decorations, and on Wednesday 28 for a "Mystery Activity". The group meets every Wednesday in the Memorial Hall from 9.15am to 12noon. Always plenty of toys, puzzles, crafts, singing and a snack!

### ***Ravensbury Players - The Ghost Train***

The Players are presenting the play "The Ghost Train" by Arnold Ridley in the Memorial Hall from Wednesday 21 to Saturday 24 November at 7.45pm each evening. Tickets at £4.50 available from Mills Butchers, Midway Stores, the Box Office 01672 -520068, or members of the Players.

### ***Axford Otters***

Axford Otters are holding a Table Top Sale at Axford Village Hall on Saturday 24 November from 10am. To purchase a table at £5 contact Lisa Hyde 520034, Bev Light 515547 or Chris Richards 520057.

## ***Thanks***

***Jean Cocker*** would like to thank all the many friends who donated so generously to the Ramsbury Surgery in memory of George. The sum of £545 was collected for which she has received an appreciative letter of thanks.

***Florrie Puffett*** and family would like to thank everyone who has sent cards letters and flowers after the sad death of her daughter Joyce.

The total raised at the ***Ramsbury Fire Station*** Coffee Morning on 13 October amounted to £881.96. The Grand total of all the money raised in Ramsbury and Aldbourne street collections for the Fire Brigade Benevolent Fund and the NY Disaster Fund during the week was £2033.00. Grateful thanks to all their friends and supporters.

## ***Advance Notices***

***The Ramsbury Primary School - Christmas Bazaar*** will be on Saturday 1 December from 10am to 12noon. There will be the usual stalls and gifts for Christmas.

***The Flyer*** will be making a shopping trip to London on Saturday 8 December. At the moment there are a few seats left. To book ring 520555

***Ramsbury Toddler Group*** will be holding a Christmas party with photographer, Father Christmas and lunch on 5 December, and making hand print calendars for 2002 on 12 December.