

Ramsbury and Axford Village Diary

October 2001



Please may we have items for the November diary by 18 October. They can be left with Sylvia Judge, 55 High Street or Ben Tottenham, Vicarage Cottage, Back Lane, at the shop counter at the Post Office or by email to diary@ramsbury.com

NATURE NOTES

One of the early signs of Autumn was on 24 August with early morning mist, and as the saying goes mel-low fruitfulness. This seems to be true this year with good crops of garden and wild fruits, although I have not noticed many sloes as yet.

What of insects, few wasps, plenty of ants, few of our more colourful butterflies but too many of the large cabbage whites with their caterpillars devouring the cabbages etc, this even being indicated on one of the gardening programmes. By October most will have pupated so under mild conditions the plants will recover. This is the season when webs laden with dew show how numerous spiders are, it is also the season to bring out the cobweb-broom as some types find their way into the home. When gardening at the beginning of September I disturbed a small light brown grasshopper (possibly *Stenobothrus Sigmaticus*) I wonder how many of you have received reports of adders being seen on tracks on the outskirts of the village, they like to bask in the sun but by now they will have found somewhere warm in the under-growth to hibernate for the winter. Recently I have seen numerous mice flattened on the roads, disturbed from the fields no doubt while the harvest was being gathered in

As the plants set their seeds for the next year some become more noticeable as with the field penny cress with its half inch diameter winged seeds quite closely packed on its small stem, yet in summer its small white flowers are easily overlooked, this I noticed at the junction of the back track with Loves Lane.

Rosie Pauline

BIRD NOTES

In the middle of August there were many sightings of Hobbies over Ramsbury. On one occasion as this bird of prey went by it was mobbed by some vociferous Martins and Swallows. Their visits were quite a spectacle, one of them seen over Knowledge Hill went after a Swallow with a breathtaking turn of speed. I am pleased to say that the Swallow lived to tell the tale.

Up by the slurry pit on the airfield a Green Sandpiper was disturbed, we had heard this bird calling at 2am as it flew down the valley. A number of Yellow Wagtails were also seen amongst a flock of Pied Wagtails on the airfield. A Peregrine Falcon flew high over the village last month and there have been reports of a Honey Buzzard near Stitchcombe and a Red Kite near Marlborough *John Marshall*

RAINFALL

The rainfall for the month to 18 September was 1.35 inches, average 2.73 inches.

THE OLD CHURCHYARD

The Amenity Group and friends have just completed a two year programme of restoration of three sections of the Old Churchyard, on the North, East and South side. The whole churchyard is now very peaceful and attractive, extending on from the closely mown area round the church itself. The ivy has been largely removed from the East wall, nettles have been dug up and a patch sown with grass seed.

Strimming has shortened the rough grass to manageable length, and it is hoped by a regular cut to prevent it from going rank. The central wild area still needs the removal of a number of self sown elders, and perennial weeds such as loose strife. This will be the next task.

RAMSBURY SURGERY-PATIENT REPRESENTATIVE GROUP REPORT

The Doctors have appealed for patients please to be aware that medicines are expensive, to be used sensibly and not stock piled. If drugs prescribed are no longer being taken they should be returned to the Surgery where if they are out of date they can be disposed of properly. Those "in date" can be sent to an organisation for use in the Third World. Although sealed these drugs are not allowed to be used again for NHS patients. There was a disappointing response this year to the invitations sent to women between the ages of 50-64 to have a mammogram. If you missed this opportunity and are interested please contact the Surgery. Sadly Sister Mary Edwins is now working in Swindon and enjoying her work there. This has left the practice very short of nursing care, but it is hoped that a replacement will be found soon. In the past there has been a private arrangement for those needing transport to attend the Chiropractors Clinic. This has now ceased and if anyone would be willing to provide this service please contact the Surgery for more information. If you have any issues you wish to discuss with Social Services a representative attends the Surgery every Wednesday at 2pm. Patients who normally have a 'flu vaccination are reminded to ask for appointment after the middle of October. Anyone over the age of 65, or with a special need is eligible.

THE AGONY OF AMERICA

The Diary does not usually comment on past events except to record the appreciation of individuals at a time of bereavement, or the thanks of those who have raised money for charities.

But the agony of all who were bereaved on 11 September cannot pass unremarked in a village with such close American connections. Our response will call for resolution as well as justice for those who have suffered a terrible loss and for whom we all shed tears Ben Tottenham

RAMSBURY LIBRARY

As from 10 September all adult reservations have been charged at the reduced fee of 50p. The county catalogue can be viewed in the library or at home on www.wiltshire.gov.uk Members will need to ask for their PIN at the library in order to request or renew loans.

RAMSBURY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The Society's first autumn meeting will be a talk given by Carl Gill on "Container Planting for the Autumn" on Monday 1 October at 7.45pm in the Methodist School Room

The Society also invites support for a plant sale which will take place on Saturday 20 October from 10am in the Church Room. Identified items should be brought to the Church Room between 9-10am.

COFFEE CENTRE

The time is drawing near again for the Christmas raffle to begin. Tickets will be available from the Coffee Centre at the Red Cross Room from Thursday 4 October. Would anyone who would like to donate a prize for the raffle please bring it along on any Thursday morning from 10am. Lots of tins will be needed to make up food hampers which will be very much appreciated.

RAMSBURY WI

The next meeting will be at 7.45pm on Thursday 4 October in the Methodist School Room when Mr L Respondek will give a talk on local geology illustrated by slides. New members and visitors are always welcome. There will be a Membury Fort Group Meeting at 7.30pm on Monday 8 October in Aldbourne Memorial Hall, hosted by Baydon WI. The subject is "Wedding Belles". £1 to include tea and cake. Transport will be arranged from the village.

RAMSBURY PAINTING GROUP

The 16th Annual Exhibition of the Ramsbury Painting Group will be held in the Church Room, Back Lane. There will be free entry on Saturday 6 October from 11am-5pm, and on Sunday 7 October from 11am-4.30pm The Preview will be on Friday 5 October from 7-9pm. Tickets price £1.50 including wine available from Bernard Brooks on 520135 or Peter Brown on 520776, or £2 at the door.

AFTER THE CONQUEST

There will be a course of eight weekly meetings from 10.30am (not 10am as stated in the leaflet) to 12 noon, starting on Thursday 11 October, at the Memorial Hall. Dinah Starkey, who gave a most successful course on the Dark Age Kings 18 months ago, will look at the lives of peasants, churchmen, soldiers and townspeople after the Norman Conquest drawing examples from our own local area. The fee is £31. Please enrol by attending the first meeting or by completing the form in the Library. Enquiries to Peter Bell 540541, or Sandra Powell at Bristol University 0117 9287153.

SKIP

There will be a Skip at Whittonditch on 12 October.

THE FLYER

The Flyer had a successful visit to Newbury Show. Despite the lack of cows, sheep and pigs there was plenty to see and do, so an enjoyable day was spent. The next trip to Newbury is on Thursday 11 October, leaving the Tree at 11.30am.

RAMSBURY FIRE STATION

There will be a Coffee Morning at the Fire Station from 10-12am on Saturday 13 October to raise money for the families of New York firemen who were killed in the recent tragedy. If you have any jumble please contact Chris on 520673, or any fireman.

QUIZ NIGHT AT THE SCOUT HALL

There will be a Quiz Night to raise funds for the Ramsbury Scout Group on Saturday 13 October starting at 7.30pm. Tickets at the door will cost £6.50 per head and will include a fish and chip supper. Call Carina Dennis on 520566 or Paul Gill on 521227 to book a table for your team of up to 6 people.

PARISH WALK

There will be a Parish Walk of 4 miles starting from the Tree at 2pm on Sunday 14 October and finishing with Tea at the Memorial Hall. This walk will celebrate the opening of all paths in place of the May Beating the Bounds and looking forward to the Boundary Walk in 2002. All ages are welcome with dogs under control. To show people that the Parish footpaths are now all open, the Amenity Group propose to arrange 3-5 mile Guided Walks every 2 weeks, but only if there is sufficient support. Please let me know if you are interested on Saturday or Sunday afternoons. R. Price 15 Union Street 520652.

AXFORD CHURCH PRODUCE STALL

There will be a Produce Stall in aid of Axford Church outside Somerfields Store in Marlborough High Street, from 8.30am on Saturday 20 October. On sale will be home-made cakes, preserves, sweets, bread, chutney, biscuits etc. Also on display will be home-grown fruit, flowers, vegetables and plants. Anyone wishing to donate produce should contact Bridget Treherne 512406.

THANKS

The Ramsbury Ball held on Saturday 8 September raised £5,470 for various village charities. Thank you for your generosity and for putting up with the noise on the night and the disruption over the weekend.

THELMA WESTALL

Following the recent sudden death of Thelma Westall we would like to thank everyone who has sent cards, letters and flowers, also those who attended the funeral. It has been a great help knowing that so many people care. From Tony, Keith, Tracy and Janet, Wendy, Karen and their families.

ADVANCE NOTICE

RAMSBURY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Elizabeth Farner will give the final talk of the year on "Pansies, Violas and Sweet Violets" on Monday 5 November at 7.45pm in the Methodist School Room. Visitors and non members are always welcome.

THE FLYER

There will be a trip to Bath on Monday 12 November, and one to London on Saturday 8 December. Please book for either trip with Muriel Lye on 520555. The Bus Committee would like a few more members to join them. Anyone interested should contact John Lambley on 520730, or any Committee member.

RAMSBURY AMENITY GROUP

The Amenity Group's annual supper will be held on Thursday 15 November. The Guest speaker will be James Drummond from Littlecote House, and an amusing evening is guaranteed.

RAVENSBURY PLAYERS

The Players have a Table Top sale on Saturday 3 November in the Memorial Hall. "The Ghost Train" by Arnold Ridley will be performed in the Memorial Hall from Wednesday 21 to Saturday 24 November.

RAMSBURY SCHOOL

Ramsbury School will be holding a Christmas Bazaar on Saturday 1 December.