

Ramsbury and Axford Village Diary

September 2001



Please may we have items for the October Diary by 18 September. 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

Quite a mixed bag of weather during the past month, the earlier dry spell having been broken by a few rather wet days, then the humid heat at the end of July. When a few cool days came the nights were cool enough for the butterbur leaves to take on the changing colour that heralds the approach of autumn. These varied conditions have their effect on insects and other wildlife. One morning it was a magpie moth that caught my eye with its black and white wings with a touch of yellow spread out on a nettle leaf, although its favourite food at the caterpillar stage is currant or gooseberry bushes. Sometimes very large caterpillars are found on the ground. These are usually one of the hawk moths, quite recently my attention was drawn to the caterpillar of the elephant hawk moth which had almost destroyed a fuschia and looked fat enough to pupate, At such times they rest on the ground hidden under moss or dry leaves.

On sunny mornings I have seen quite a few meadow brown and gatekeeper butterflies also the usual cabbage whites, but few other varieties except some peacocks during the past week and I am not the only person to have noticed the scarcity. I have also been told of the birds taking their toll of them. Perhaps the peacock with a piece out of its wing was one that got away. This is the month when bush crickets may be seen, one crossed my path the other day in the High Street and alighted on a house wall in the sunshine. Large blue and brown dragon flies have been seen within the village recently.

It is the time of year when hedgehogs get killed on our roads as the young look for new territory as these solitary animals must fatten up ready for winter hibernation. For the first time ever at the end of July I saw a pied wagtail feeding its rather grey young on my lawn. Equally unexpected was the sight of a goldfish in the Kennet.

Rosie Pauline

Bird Notes

Last month, I reported about a Robin nesting in a fishing bag, this month I was invited to see a Wren's nest which had been built in the chassis of a pick up truck! I have been informed that Wrens sometimes build several exploratory nests until they find the perfect site.

About two years ago there was an irruption of winter migrants a few months earlier than usual, the same appears to be happening this year. There are already Siskin and Crossbills in Hens Wood. These irruptions are usually caused by lack of food in their breeding areas.

For a couple of days in August, Ramsbury played host to a Hobby, it was probably a juvenile which is starting its migration back to Africa.

John Marshall

Rainfall

The rainfall for the month to 18 August was 2.95 inches, average 2.46 inches.

WI

The next meeting of the WI will be at 7:45pm on Thursday 6 September in the Methodist Schoolroom, guests are welcome. The title of the meeting is "Roses and Castles" and Maggie Atkins will speak briefly on the history of Canal Art and its origins, and then go on to give a demonstration. The trading stall will be Preserves and Pickles and the competition is "Bloom of the Month".

The 2001 Ramsbury Ball

The 2001 Ramsbury Ball will be held on Saturday 8 September from 7:30pm. There are no tables left but we can squeeze in a few couples. The organisers apologise in advance for the inevitable noise levels on the night, but the event is in aid of several village charities. Enquiries to the Crown & Anchor on 520335.

Ramsbury & Axford Parish Council

The Parish Council is delighted to announce several projects which should come to fruition soon:

New Play Equipment

The Parish Council agreed on 20 August to buy several pieces of new equipment for the play areas in Ramsbury and Axford. The equipment will be ordered soon and should be in place in the next few weeks.

Riverside Nature Reserve

Work which was delayed because of flooding and foot and mouth regulations will soon begin, and should be finished by next spring, on a board walk which will give access to the river bank behind the Fire Station. The Parish Council is funding the scheme, which should make the riverbank and the Nature Reserve easily accessible

New Lighting Scheme in The Square

The present streetlights in the Square are to be replaced by lights that are more in keeping with the appearance of the buildings. It is hoped that other refurbishment of the Square will begin soon.

Financial Help With a Project?

Groups and Societies in Ramsbury and Axford are invited to apply for help from the Parish Council if they have a project or specific purchase that needs financial assistance. The money (hundreds, not thousands of pounds!) would be available in April 2002. Please apply in writing giving details of the use to which the money would be put, by 10 September to the Clerk at the Memorial Hall, or the Chairman, Sheila Glass, 18 The Paddocks, Ramsbury if you have an aim in view with which you think the Council could help.

Internet Access at Ramsbury Library

Ramsbury Parish Council is the first Parish Council in Wiltshire to pay for the supply and installation of a terminal providing public Internet access. Wiltshire County Council Library Service is making the free service available to any resident who is a member of the Library (simply turn up and register).

The terminal can be used at any time during Library hours, and short periods of use can be pre booked. Printing will be charged at 5p per page. For details contact Mary Cook at the Library.

Foot and Mouth

All footpaths in Wiltshire are now open, but walkers are asked to avoid walking through groups of animals, and PLEASE keep to footpaths. Path closure signs should now have been removed.

Amenity Skips

There will be mid-week skips at Whittonditch Road and Axford on Wednesday 12 September.

Ramsbury Horticultural Society

Tickets are still available from the Post Office, for the Society's trip to Wisley on Saturday 8 September. A coach will leave the Square at approximately 9:30am and we hope to arrive back at about 5:30pm.

The cost, inclusive of entry to Wisley, will be £10.

Ramsbury Amenity Group

There will be a guided visit to Salisbury on Saturday 15 September. A Blue Badge Guide will take the party through the Cathedral and the Close followed by a short stroll to the Market Square, or one can stay and listen to a special choral evensong. Non-members as well as members will be welcome. The cost will be in the region of £8 per head, leaving the Tree at 2:30pm and returning by 8pm.

Please contact Rosemary Lee 520192 to reserve a place on the Flyer.

The Flyer

The next visit to Newbury will be on Thursday 13 September at 11:30am from the Tree. The Flyer will also be going to the Newbury Show on Sunday 16 September, 9:30am from the Tree, fare £2. There will not be any cloven hoofed animals but there will be horses, dogs and poultry as well as the usual attractions.

For bookings contact Muriel Lye on 520555.

Stamps

Mrs Evelyn Smith of 3 Townfield, has taken over the “job” of collecting all your used and unused stamps for the Iris Fund for the Prevention of Blindness. Please continue to save your stamps for this important charity. I still collect old/unused spectacles for the 3rd world.
Priscilla Price

Holy Cross Church

The Harvest Festival and Gift Day will be on Sunday 16 September. The Harvest Supper will be held in the Memorial Hall at 7:30pm on Friday 21 September.

Axford News

Axford Village Hall

The Village Hall has recently been refurbished with help from the National Lottery, Wiltshire County Council, Kennet District Council and Ramsbury and Axford Parish Council. It is available for hire for Parties, Meetings, Receptions etc. at good rates. Contact the Secretary at 12 Kennet Rise, Axford Tel. 520719.

St Michael's Axford - Harvest Festival

The Harvest Festival will be at 6pm on Sunday 23 September followed by a Harvest Supper at the Village Hall. Please book your supper not later than Thursday 20 September cost £4 per head, from Mrs Treherne on 512406 or from Mrs Hart on 520626.

Thanks

Barnardo Appeal

I would like to say “thank you” to my collectors and to all who gave so generously to the appeal. We collected £680 to help homeless and abused children have a happier and safer life.
Babs Sparrow

Arthritis Research

We are delighted to say that the Arthritis Research Campaign Coffee Morning on 20 July raised over £1850, due to the marvellous generosity of all our many helpers and supporters. Thank you all very much! There will be a sale of Christmas Cards and ARC goods at Evelyn House on Wednesday 17 October from 10am to noon. Coffee and biscuits will be free. Please come and support us again!

Horticultural Society Summer Show

The Society would like to thank event organisers, helpers, contributors and visitors who helped to make the summer show a success. However, as is normal, we did make a loss on this show, although, because of the support we got, less than has been the average.

We therefore request that members check whether they have paid their subscription for the current year, and if that has been overlooked to send their renewals to Roy Alexander at 55a High Street.

Advance Notices

Horticultural Society

The first talk of the autumn will be given on Monday 1 October at 7:45pm in the Methodist School Room. It is entitled “Container Planting for the Autumn” and the speaker is Carl Gill. Prospective new members to the Society are welcome to come to this meeting.

The Flyer to Bath & London

The next trip by the Flyer to Bath will be on Monday 12 November, and to London on Saturday 8 December.

Amenity Group Annual Supper

The Annual Supper of the Amenity Group will be on Thursday 15 November.

Ravensbury Players

The Ravensbury Players will be performing “The Ghost Train” by Arnold Ridley from Wednesday 21 to Saturday 24 November in the Memorial Hall. Please make a note in your diary.

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