



## RAMSBURY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

# Spring Newsletter 2010

### TALKS

We begin our talks this season with two of our “in house” experts - Michael Handford and Clive Glass - who will do their best to pass on their expertise and general “know how” on the growing of pelargoniums, geraniums and chrysanthemums. This talk will take place on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March at 7.45 pm.

The local interest in allotment growing has prompted us to invite our old friend Mike Burgess to give a talk on how to get the best from your allotment and also, of course, from our gardens. This talk will take place on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April. Mike will also be bringing along some of his excellent perennial plants for sale – which alone, will be worth coming along for.

For those, whose interest is in Home Industries, and who might be a little hesitant in entering our shows, or might want to learn a few tips, we have invited one of our judges for this section, Jenny Coates, to come along on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April, to enlighten us with ‘Hints and Tips for Home Industry Showing’.

All our talks will be in the Memorial Hall, starting at 7.45 p.m. Please bring along your friends and neighbours!

### QUIZ versus Lambourn **Thursday 11 March, 7.30 pm at Lambourn**

Our team returned to winning form last year (after the draw in the previous year) and we hope that this form will be maintained when we go to Lambourn. (N.B. The venue stated in our fixture list, but NOT the show schedule, is incorrect!) The quiz, with supper at the half way point, is due to start at 7.30 pm in the Lambourn Memorial Hall. Please come along to support our team. If you have any spare seats in your car, or have a problem in getting to Lambourn, please tell Dianne 521363 or email us on [hortsoc@ramsbury.org](mailto:hortsoc@ramsbury.org).

### SPRING SHOW & BOWLS CLUB FÊTE

**Saturday 10 April: in the Memorial Hall from 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm**

Our show season starts with our Spring Show for which we have two additional trophies. It was felt by the committee that having only one cup for the usual large number of entries in the flowers section was inadequate so, two new trophies have been introduced. The customary ‘Spring Challenge Cup’ will be awarded for the best exhibit in classes 1 – 7 and a new trophy, the ‘Don Crozier Trophy’, will be awarded for the best exhibit in classes 8 – 20. In the two ‘Flowering Shrub’ classes, the best exhibit will win ‘Geoff Rissone Plate’. Please study the changes which have been made in the Flowers section. We hope that the amendments will make things a little easier for entrants and that you will also be able to identify, elsewhere, what items you or your children can take on so as to enter the Home Industries or Children’s sections. (NOTE CORRECTION: Class 29 in the Floral Art section should read “Easter Egg in an **EGG** Cup”). The Bowls Club, as usual, will have a number of stalls that we hope will interest all the family, so please make this afternoon a date!

### OUTING **Saturday 24 April. Departure 10am from the Square, Ramsbury.**

There will be a half day visit to Home Covert Gardens & Arboretum, Roundway, Devizes, and then lunch at the Heritage Museum, with a welcome from the Director and the rest of the afternoon to tour the museum and new White Horses and Hill Figures Exhibition. Details will be given at our talks and advertised at the Post Office and Charity shop. Spring flowers, (erythroniums etc), camellias, magnolias and other shrubs, trees etc. are among the attractions. Please contact Sheila on 520409 or Di on 521363 and advise if you can offer or would like transport. Price will be £10, to include lunch, entrance to museum and donation for John Phillips’ charity of choice - usually Macmillan Nurses.

### SPRING PLANT SALE & COFFEE MORNING

**Saturday 8 May at ‘Millstream’ from 10.00 am to 11.30 am**

The society would be grateful for any plants you can set aside for our plant sale. Please bring them along before 9.30, if possible, so that they can be priced up. Identification labels would be appreciated for any plants that may be difficult for

us to identify. This event will probably provide you with the best horticultural bargain you are ever likely to get anywhere! Put it in your diary now!

## **AUTUMN OUTING: Members to decide!**

Our 2010 fixture list allows for a coach visit on Saturday 16 October which would enable us to go somewhere with the prospect of some autumn colour, such as Westonbirt, Batsford, Wisley, Stourhead, Savill Gardens, etc. We could even go to Kew where there is always something to see. A walk on their 'Treetop Walkway' is a must if you have not been on it before. At the AGM Sheila mentioned various options to consider. Last year we went to the Malvern Autumn Show which was a diverse and spectacular event and generated requests for a repeat visit. However, the cost for a return visit, on Saturday 25 September (instead of a later autumn colour outing), would be approx £30 per person and we would need an advance commitment for this visit, if we are to get sufficient numbers to fill a coach. Please therefore email us on [hortsoc@ramsbury.org](mailto:hortsoc@ramsbury.org) immediately with your comments and state if the other suggestions mentioned here would, or would not, be equally acceptable.

## **YOUNG PERSON'S PRESS ARTICLE**

The winning entries for the above (Classes 124 and 125 in the Summer Show) were those entered by Roger Smith and Hazel Smith. Their entries are reprinted below:

### Ramsbury Manor Robbery

by Roger Smith

Five members of a gipsy gang committed the biggest private house robbery in February 2006.

Ramsbury Manor is a stately home built in the 17th century. The owner Mr Hyams, 81 bought the Manor in 1964 for £650,000, a then record price for a private house sale. He was not in the house when the thieves broke in through a downstairs window. The thieves are thought to have approached via the entrance in Axford village. The estate gates were all locked but they forced a padlock on a gate about 400 metres from the house. The gang broke in wearing balaclavas at about 10.40pm on 1st February 2006, and methodically searched the manor without ransacking it. The gang plundered items which were worth about £30m altogether. They included a 1675 clock from the reign of Charles II; a barometer by Daniel Delander (c1725), bought for £275,000 in 1992; a bracket clock by Delander (c1720); and an early Dutch table clock from Thomas Tompion (c1675). They also stole valuable paintings, but ignored one by Rembrandt. The thieves were disturbed by Mr Hyams's chauffeur and they escaped in two stolen cars carrying their haul of goodies.

The men behind the raids were part of the Johnson family, an organised criminal gang who detectives believe have plagued the South of England for 20 years. The five members of the gang were all jailed for 11 years in August 2008.

### Greg Rusedski opens new sports pavilion

by Hazel Smith

On Saturday 25th April 2009, Greg Rusedski visited Ramsbury to open their new, swish cricket, bowls and tennis pavilion. The money to build and furnish the pavilion came from both the village fundraising 2005 project and the kind donation from Sir Martyn Arbib, a local benefactor. In the end, the residents of the village managed to get together a total of £750,000 needed to build the club house. To celebrate and mark this achievement, they had a day specially dedicated towards it, with a special guest to do the honours (Greg Rusedski)!

At the start of the day, every child that came along had the opportunity to hit a couple of balls with Greg. During his opening speech Greg said he had been delighted to have had the chance to play and encourage the juniors. Then the special guest had the chance to watch the exhibition match featuring Ramsbury tennis club's two coaches (Lewis Fletcher and Catherine Graham), the British U14 champion Sam Hutt and former U16 British champion Anna Hawkins (who has competed at Wimbledon). However halfway through the match, Lewis stood down to let Greg play in his place.

During the afternoon there was a cricket match, bowls match and a sequence of football and netball matches to watch. Also throughout the day anyone had the opportunity to play tennis.

Greg Rusedski's response to the day and the new pavilion was "this is brilliant, just what a community like this needs".

## **TOPICAL TIP**

You will see in our show schedule that we have added Irises to our 'Rose Evening'. To ensure that they will be ready – plant them NOW! Dutch iris bulbs are now generally available, even in Sainsbury's! Plant them approx 2 ins (5 cms) deep, in a sunny position in well drained soil or in a compost with added gravel. Waterlogged conditions will cause them to rot. Later on, cut off the dead flower heads to enable the bulb to rebuild strength for next year. The Iris, you may be interested to know, is referred to as the "goddess of the rainbow".