

Ramsbury FC

is a local football club only a few miles from Ogbourne with a catchment area typically covering villages between Swindon, Marlborough, Hungerford, Lambourn although we do have players who join us from further afield.

Ramsbury was one of the first clubs in Wiltshire to achieve the FA charter standard and we comply with all the appropriate regulations about child safety and the coaches have been on FA approved training courses.

The club is run by volunteers who cover everything from marking pitches, coaching and running training sessions, catering, raising sponsorship etc. They are of course supported by an army of mums and dads who help with everything from keeping kit clean, chauffeuring players to matches and of course turning up in all weather to support teams.

The ethos of the club is very much a family friendly one - we do not subscribe to winning at any cost and try, with varying degrees of success, to get the balance between everybody joining in and putting out strong teams. The most important thing is that the children develop in a safe and enjoyable environment with respect for other players and officials. Many young players who play for the club for a few years build strong friendships within their teams which often help when going onto St Johns etc.

We have teams at Ramsbury covering age groups up to and including seniors. The U7s and older play in competitive leagues run by the Wilts FA and so focus on learning/developing skills and training for competitive matches. Age groups up to U11 are mixed boys/girls.

We also have an U6 group which includes children of ages 3, 4 and 5. The main focus is to get the children to enjoy playing football and get into the routine of coming along every Saturday as part of a group of friends. We therefore play games and are quite relaxed in approach particularly at the start of the season but you tend to find it gets progressively more structured as children get used to routines. Bit like the first year at school or preschool! Having said that the progress they make in the year when they are so young is quite dramatic anyway and really rewarding to see.

We have a small shop in the clubhouse which, depending on who is on duty, does teas, coffees, bacon butties!!, selection of sweets for children after practice - once the children discover it expectations are high!!

The training sessions are each Saturday during term times usually starting between 9.30 - 10.30 depending on age group and many continue during school holidays subject to availability of coaches. On any Saturday there can be as many as 150 children of all ages training plus parents so its quite a gathering. Parents tend to stay and watch the youngsters particularly in the early days as it makes the children feel more confident and if there is a fall sometimes the coach just will not do and it has to be mum/dad. As the year progresses and children get to know each other you often find parents can share which frees up time on Saturday mornings although many parents stay and it gets quite sociable on the touchline.

We do charge subscriptions for membership which covers things like, affiliation to FA, rent of grounds and clubhouse, insurance, balls, etc. For 2009/10 the subs are £25 for U6s and £55 for older children which is very competitive (i.e. less than half the rate of some other clubs) and is unchanged from last year. New starters can just join in for a couple of weeks to see if they like it before paying subs.

The Ogbournes are already well represented as we provide the team coaches for 4 of the teams and over 20 players but there's always room for more so why not come along one Saturday to see what its all about or give Chris a call on 07747118811

All Change at Village School

It was with a mixture of sadness and excitement that Mrs Hicks announced that she intends to leave the school at the end of December to go on to a new Headship in a bigger school; sadness because she has grown very fond of the children and excitement at the new challenge that lies ahead for her.

She writes *“Ogbourne School is a very special place with very special children and teachers. Over the 5 years that I have been here I have seen it grow from strength to strength and feel that I have accomplished what I set out to achieve. It is time for someone new to take it forward. The school has effective strategies in place to ensure a smooth handover and a supportive and intelligent Governing Body who will start the recruitment process shortly and will ensure that the new head is of a high calibre”*. The school will be very sad to see her go, but thank her for all she has done, and wish her equal success at her new school.

AUTUMN FAYRE

10th October 2009 at Ogbourne St. George Village Hall. 2.00pm - 5.00 pm. Many stalls including Decorate a "Posh" Cake. Apple Bobbing. Make Tree Spirits, Design and bring along your vegetable animal (several classes and prizes), cake stall, produce stall, plant stall and refreshments. Come and have some fun! Proceeds to be split 50/50 between Ogbourne School New Hall Fund and Yrs 5 and 6 Residential. Contact Helen Leader (841481) or Rebecca MacDonald (841473)

Open Evening

The school would like everyone in the community to have as early an opportunity as possible to see the new hall once it is complete. Therefore, prior to the official opening, we would like to extend an open invite to all members of our community (both school and village) to come and see the fabulous new addition to our premises. It will be an informal opportunity for you to come and have a look and meet some of the staff and governors. The date is set for 12th November 5.15 to 7.15pm.

Ogbourne Book Group was founded by Rachel Davies, Liu Hong and Kirsten Valentiner nearly six years ago. Today we have twenty members and meet once a month, usually at the pub (thanks to Megan and Mike!) Below is a review of our latest book:

The Road by Cormac McCarthy

This story of a man and his young son traveling through a post-apocalyptic world was received well by the group. Not for the faint-hearted, this dark and desperate novel is thoroughly engaging from beginning to end. Though the setting is bleak, the heart of the story is the strong loving relationship between father and son and their determination to stay true to their beliefs, stay alive and keep going.

Contact Gilly Beer 07791 796512

Sunday, 4th October Trinity 17 10.00 Harvest Festival
Sunday, 11th October Trinity 18 8.30 am Holy Communion
Sunday, 18th October Trinity 19 9.30 Parish Communion
Sunday, 25th October Trinity 20 9.30 Morning Prayer



The Dragon Ogbourne St George Oct 09

- 2 Harvest Supper
- 3 Decoration of the church 10.00—11.30. All welcome, contact Richenda George 871278 or just come along!
- 3 Pub Quiz
- 9 Poker night at the Pub
- 10 Autumn Fayre
- 25 Clocks go back 1 hour

Reverend Roger Powell writes:

This month we celebrate 'Harvest', which I would have thought has been celebrated ever since we first planted seeds, cut the heads of grain and stored them for use through hard times. Even in today's fast moving technology driven society the celebration of harvest lives very deep in us. It seems to stir up in us a sense of our country roots, the memories of a land that lived by agriculture before the Industrial Revolution turned most of us into 'townies'.

There will be many of you who will not have to go very far back to find your farming connections. The increasing number of people in all sorts of different contexts and situations who are growing their own vegetables is surely part of a wish to go back to those country roots.

In the Bible, harvest and judgement go together, the parable of the wheat and the tares puts the point very starkly (Matthew 13:24-30). It is right and good that we should be thankful, but we also need to ask ourselves what we can do when so much of the world does not enjoy what we have.

This year we shall be celebrating harvest on Sunday 4th October and details of the services on that day can be found in the calendar of services and on our website.

It may seem strange that some of us bring tinned food to decorate the church, but this can be a modern way of acknowledging our dependence on God. On the other hand, lumps of coal and sheaves of wheat may evoke memories of the past, when life was harder and the celebrations more poignant.

Punk Monk comes to Marlborough

Andy Freeman, nicknamed the Punk Monk, has made a remarkable journey from praying with punks and Goths in a derelict pub to planting contemporary Christian communities committed to a rhythm of life drawing on the Celtic and Franciscan traditions. These communities place prayer, hospitality, practical involvement with the poor and fostering creative arts at their centre.

Do come and hear Andy Freeman speaking at The Bear, Marlborough, on Thursday 15th October at 7.30pm. Get a drink in the bar and join us in the back room.

For further information contact Rachel or Deborah at Mustard Seed (01672 511611)

Governor Vacancy

The school would very much like someone from the local community, who perhaps does not already have a direct connection with the school, to join our Board of Governors. Governors have a real responsibility for and influence on the strategic management of the school and the education of our children so it is a great opportunity for community involvement. There are lots of exciting developments at the school making now a great time to join the team. Interested? Call Nicola Hickford, Clerk to the Governors 01672 841418.

Discussion

For many years the Church of England has been discussing the issue of children receiving communion before they are confirmed, and has thought along the lines of the Roman Catholic Church where children are prepared at about seven years of age, receive communion from that point and then come to confirmation later, perhaps in their late teens or early twenties.

Traditionally, the Church of England has encouraged confirmation at about eleven/twelve years of age. Many people have now begun to question whether this is the right approach.

As a result the Marlborough Deanery, of which we are a part, is going to discuss the issue at the next meeting of the Deanery Synod. This is an open meeting and Barbara Meardon who is an experienced children's advisor in the diocese is coming to lead a debate on the issue so that the synod can recommend to our parishes what our next step should be.

There will be very different views on this subject and more information on the background and current practice can be found at, <http://moodle.salisbury.anglican.org/mod/forum/discuss.php?d=11>

It would also be advantageous if you were able to read up on the subject! The recommended book is "Let the Children Come to Communion". by Stephen Lake,