

OTTERBOURNE CONSERVATION GROUP



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Newsletter Winter 2005

This autumn has been memorable for the striking colours of the dying leaves and this is probably due to the excessively dry summer we have experienced. Whether this is also the reason for the excellent crop of wild berries is, however debatable.

All the forecasts seem to be predicting a harsher winter than in recent years, although as yet there is not much evidence of this. It is, however, noticeable that the local migratory birds have returned to our gardens in good time this year. By this I mean the Robins, Blackbirds, Greenfinches etc. which have been conspicuously absent during high summer, having decamped to the woods and fields where food was more abundant. Perhaps they can sense the imminent arrival of cold weather. In any event it would probably be prudent for us all to stock up in good time with wild bird food.

We mounted an exhibition of photographs and documents relating to the history and wildlife of Otterbourne, as part of the Community Week at St. Matthew's Church, which some of you may have visited. This attracted considerable interest and hopefully we can show at least part of it again at our Autumn Talk.

Our talk this year will take place on Tuesday, 29 November in the Bianchi Room at the Village Hall commencing at 7.30 p.m. The speaker will be Andrew Walmsley from Lyndhurst and his subject will be the history and wildlife of the New Forest, on which he is noted expert. All members and friends are cordially invited to come and hear about this priceless asset, which lies just on our doorstep - as usual there will be a small admission charge for non-members.

Finally on a seasonal note, the Otterbourne Mummings will be performing their traditional play in Park Lane at 3 p.m. on Sunday, 18 December. Again all members will be welcome on this, the 30th year of the event.

Michael Warne
Chairman

An independent Group affiliated to the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, a registered charity.