

Echoes Of The Past -The Rumworth Saga Begins.

As a tribute to the excitement and enthusiasm our illustrious leader simply gushes with, when the word Rumworth is mentioned, I feel it is only fit to give you all a brief history of the story so far - The Rumworth saga. (N.B. these are extracts only- the originals can be seen on request.) Editor

Rumworth Lodge

Rumworth Lodge is situated between Bolton and Westhoughton and was built in 1849 by the former Bolton waterworks as compensation water for the river Croal. Today Rumworth is better known as a haven for wildlife. It attracts a variety of birds; great crested grebe, kingfishers and herons as well as a number of wading birds and wild fowl. Five years ago a rare great northern diver rested at the lodge.

Stan Terry, a barley beef farmer, owns Seddon Fold Farm adjacent to Rumworth Lodge. He is a keen ornithologist and conservationist and is embarking on a scheme to develop unused areas of his land in an attempt to create habitats for wildlife. This scheme will entail the restoration and construction of ponds, tree planting, hedgelaying and the creation of a new boundary hedge. He has enlisted Bolton Conservation Volunteers to help him implement these plans. The project is exciting because a farmer is actively co-operating with conservation organisations.

Linda Brookes - August 1986

Rumworth Revisited

Once again our travels brought us to Rumworth where we continued with a site that will hopefully attract birds, insects and aquatic life.

There were a variety of tasks that needed completing, firstly, the erecting of a dam so that the water would be directed into the diminishing pond. The dam was constructed with soil and rubble, this was pressed down by rather strange people who jumped up and down on the dam (I considered them strange because they actually enjoyed looking silly). Perhaps they would have been more effective if they hadn't kept getting showered with soil by the buffoons who were supposed to be throwing it on the dam! While this was carrying on, the land surrounding the pond was being flattened out because it was covered in piles of mud and rubble, not a fun job!

Beverly Crook - September 1987



Rumworth - Tree Plant

November 29th 1987 BCV were in action at Rumworth. The objective of the day was to plant 1000 trees and shrubs (*The original said scrubs!!*) in a strip of land adjacent to the lodge. Stan's first step was to identify areas where farming was difficult the land being too wet or steep. Step two was to seek expert advice. This advice came in the shape of Hugo Boylan of the Greater Manchester Countryside Unit. Having first surveyed the land, Hugo prepared a list of native trees and shrubs which will grow successfully in the wet conditions. Rumworth Lodge is a Grade A site, and would greatly benefit from the planting.

Having in my possession a planting scheme it would seem the task was fairly straightforward, however, much work and help was still needed. Bury's Arboricultural Department gave us sound practical advice and the wardens at Phillips Park went to a great deal of trouble to transport the trees.

As we worked on the tree plant I suddenly realised we

were not alone. Large numbers of short-tailed field voles could be heard calling in the dense grass. The voles are cantankerous critters spending a good deal of time above ground squabbling with adjacent voles. This overwhelming urge to mix it with the neighbours so concerns the voles that they tend to forget the more mundane aspects of life like watching out for predators. Analysis of birds of prey pellets, for example, kestrel, barn-owl and short eared owl show that short-tailed field voles are an important aspect of the menu. Further research confirmed the obvious, male voles are taken more often than females.

As we left the farm, the thought crossed my mind that other farmers might start thinking in the same direction as Stan. Perhaps in time Seddon Fold Farm could become a model conservation project to be followed by other farmers up and down the country. A most agreeable dream, perhaps one day it will become a reality.

Rick Parker - November 1987