

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Roxy Jane Austen Wrecked <u>My Life</u> 7.30pm Village walk Square 2pm	2 Hort Soc Talking Tomatoes Church Rm 7.15 for 7.45pm	3	4 Lunch Club Church Rooms 12-1.45pm	5 WI meeting Church Rooms 2.30pm	6 LINK Coffee Morning RBL 10.30am	7
8	9	10	11	12	13 Roxy The Marriage of Figaro 7pm	14 <i>Valentines Day</i> 
15	16 Parish Council meeting 7.45pm Memorial Hall	17 <i>Shrove Tuesday</i> Pancakes Church Rooms 2.30-4pm	18 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> Lunch Club Church Rooms 12-1.45pm	19 WI coffee RBL 10.30am LINK AGM Church Rooms 7pm	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27 Roxy The Audience 7pm	28

Sustainable option – read me @ www.ramsbury.org.uk – Parish Mags - Diary	Charity Shop Tue, Wed, Thur & Sat 10 – 12.30. Tue & Thur 2 – 4.30	Ramsbury & Axford Link Scheme Mon-Fri 9 – 5 Tel 520111	Ramsbury Library Mon & Thur 2 - 4. Wed & Sat 10am - 12pm
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<u>Every Sunday</u> Holy Cross See text for services Methodist Church See text for services Tennis Club 10.am	<u>Every Monday</u> Short Mat Bowls Mem Hall 2-4pm	<u>Every Tuesday</u> 1 st & 3 rd Tue Art Group Scouts Hut 10-1pm Bowls Club 5.45 pm at the Bowling Green Flyer to Marlborough	<u>Every Wednesday</u> Flyer to Hungerford Yoga Church Rooms 6.45-8pm Royal British Legion Bingo 7 for 7.30pm	<u>Every Thursday</u> Phoenix Pizza back on 19 th Feb Memorial Hall 4.45 to 8pm	<u>Every Friday</u> Ramsbury Silver Band Axford Village Hall 7.30- 9.30pm Flyer to Hungerford Yoga Church Rooms 9-10.15am	<u>Every Saturday</u> Junior Football 10am February 2026
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Ramsbury and Axford Village Diary

February 2026



Please may we have items for the next diary before 17th of the month.
Please email to diary@ramsbury.org

NATURE NOTES by Peter Marren

It is mid-winter, cold and frosty, and with less than eight hours of daylight. Wild plants seem to be asleep. Except that in many cases they aren't. These days, annuals such as groundsel, shepherd's purse and red dead-nettle flower as freely in winter as in summer. Under south-facing brick walls, which act as storage heaters, the vegetation can even be quite lush. Near the Paddocks, for instance, there was a dense flowering of petty spurge, a humble relative of the bush-like spurges of the Mediterranean and the cactus-like ones of African deserts. Like all spurges it contains sticky, milk-white latex that maybe helps this plant to withstand the cold.

Some fungi are also fruiting well in the cold, especially bracket fungi on logs and stumps. A brown mushroom, super-shiny as if sprayed with lacquer, and growing in clumps on dead or dying trees is the velvet shank, also called the winter mushroom. In Asian cuisine it is gathered for soups and stir-fries, and a close relative is cultivated for that purpose. Another winter fungus to spot is the delightful scarlet elf-cup, thimbles of bright red among bright green moss.

A very surprising winter plant is the bee orchid. Not the flowers, which appear in midsummer, but growing as a rosette of greyish green, strap-like leaves. These manufacture food for the plant for months before its brief flowering (by which time the leaves are usually battered and even blackening). Maybe those astonishing bee-like flowers require a lot of stored energy and so it must start early. We are lucky to have several colonies of bee orchids, though they are easy to miss, and vary in numbers from year to year.

Muntjac deer are active in winter and often enter gardens where they are partial to tender leaves and flowers. I often spot a buck muntjac in the wet field opposite my house, and sometimes see it slinking across the road, snuffling as it goes. Its barks are a familiar sound, proclaiming my garden as its rightful territory, and to attract females to its patch. Unlike other deer, muntjac breed all year round. No wonder it is now probably our commonest deer, despite being here for less than a century (a Chinese native, they originated as escapes from Woburn Abbey).

BIRD NOTES by Paul Swan

One of the first birds to lay eggs in the new year is the Raven. Most pairs will have laid between four and seven eggs by the end of February. Our local birds have been seen building or refurbishing their nests, as they often use the same nest for several years. The eggs will be incubated by the female, who is fed by the male, for 18 -21 days. The chicks will remain in the nest for 5 to 7 weeks, being fed by both parents, and will stay nearby for weeks after that.

Greater spotted woodpeckers will not be laying eggs until March, but the males can already be heard drumming to announce their territories and ward off rivals. They hit the wood so hard that it would cause brain damage in any other bird, but woodpeckers actually have shock absorbers in their skull!

Spring Hill has plenty to see, as always. There is a mixed flock of redwings and fieldfares on the lower slopes, a flock of meadow pipits near the war memorial, and many skylarks in the fields.

RAINFALL by Robert Osmond

Following two very wet years, 2023 and 2024 with rainfall 50% above average, we were probably going to have a dry 2025. The wet spell continued through January and February, both with above average rainfall, however the next six months were all well below average leading to a hosepipe ban. It was looking like a record breaking dry year until we had above average rainfall in the last four months which brought the total for the year to 812.60mm. Comparing this with recent years, the driest was 2010 with 702.30mm, the wettest 2023 with 1297.20mm.

It's good to see a more seasonable cold snap in late December/early January, hence the saying "A January Spring is good for no thing"

Recreation Centre 200 Club

The 200 Club results for January are: £100 to Amelia Tester, £50 to each of Marina Souter, Danny Watson, Chris Snelling, Mike Ferris and Matthew Tester and £25 to each of Lizzie Wilson, Mark Rees, Laurie Roberts, Peter Willetts, Jen Stoyle and Sarah Kinch. The club costs £60 a year to join. Funds are split 50/50 between prizes and the Recreation Centre. To join, contact Ian Smith on 07977 473975 or oldtiff@hotmail.co.uk

Holy Cross and St. Michael's Axford

This February sees the start of the church season of Lent. We shall start with Pancakes in the Church Rooms on Shrove Tuesday (17th from 2:30pm) - all welcome! A series of Lent groups exploring "The Whole Easter Story" will meet during Lent leading up to Easter on 5th April - contact our Rector (Revd Beth Hutton) for more details of where and when.

Sunday 1st February 10:00am Team Holy Communion (Chilton Foliat).

Sunday 8th February 9:30am BCP Matins 4:00pm Evening Prayer with Hot Chocolate (Froxfield).

Sunday 15th February 9:30am All Age Harvest Communion.

Wednesday 18th February (Ash Wednesday) 10:00am Holy Communion.

Sunday 22nd February 8:00am BCP Communion 9:30am Cafe Church.

Thursdays at 10:00am Holy Communion: EXCEPT 19th February - see Ash Wednesday service on 18th.

Reflective Spaces will be on Wednesday 25th February at St. Michael's, Aldbourne - 7:00pm.

Methodist Church Services in Aldbourne

Sunday 1st February 10.30am service led by Local Preacher.

Sunday 8th February 10.30am service led by Local Preacher.

Sunday 15th February 10.30am service led by Local Preacher.

Sunday 22nd February 10.30am service led by Local Preacher.

Revamp Clothing Sale at Aldbourne Methodist Chapel from 10am on Friday 13th and Saturday 14th February offering new, nearly new and designer ladies and children's clothes for your shopping pleasure, with all proceeds to Prospect Hospice & the Methodist Chapel.

Coffee Morning every Thursday from 9.30am to 11.30am at the Lychgate, Ramsbury.

Lunch Club

Lunch Club this month will be on Wednesday 4th and Wednesday 18th February.

Pancakes

Tuesday 17th February is Shrove Tuesday, so come and enjoy pancakes and refreshments in the Church Rooms, Back Lane 2.30 - 4pm. All welcome. Free, but donations to Holy Cross Church appreciated.

Ramsbury Flyer Trips

Swindon Orbital Shopping Centre on Thursday 19th February. An extensive range of shops, including Marks & Spencer, New Look, Next and Asda, plus Costa!! Flyer fare only £5: leaving Ramsbury at 1pm.

Hillier Garden Centre, Hermitage on Monday 23rd March. Get yourself ready for spring, with lots to choose from a large range of plants - all from their local nursery - with traditional and modern displays, bound to inspire you, plus the gorgeous contemporary Mulberry & Thyme restaurant for coffee or lunch. Flyer fare only £5 and leaving Ramsbury at 10.30.

All trips are available to those from local villages, please contact Janet for details of pick-up and drop-off time. Full timetable details are posted in shops, notice boards, post offices and on www.ramsburyflyer.org: details of trip times are for Ramsbury. Please ring Janet 01672 520682 or 07584 253117.

Ramsbury WI

Thursday 5th February 2.30pm Church Rooms. Enjoy a Chocolate Experience with Amy Levin, Marlborough's own artisan chocolatier. She will give a talk and demonstration with opportunities to taste her products and purchase some at the end. Visitors welcome. Enquiries to 520908 or 520261.

Thursday 19th February Coffee Morning in the Royal British Legion Club, 10.30am onwards.

Ramsbury Roxy

Sunday 1st February – Jane Austen Wrecked My Life, tickets £6.00

Friday 13th February – ROH: The Marriage of Figaro, tickets 12.00

Friday 27th February – NT Live: The Audience, tickets £12.00

Tickets are available from the Post Office and www.ramsburyroxy.org

Ravensbury Players

Hold that date! The Ravensbury Players will be performing "Murdered to Death" by Peter Gordon on 26th, 27th and 28th March at the Memorial Hall, Ramsbury. Ticket price £10.00 on sale from the middle of February. More details to follow.

This hilarious spoof, in the best Agatha Christie traditions, is set in a 1930's country manor house, with an assembled cast of characters guaranteed to delight inc Bunting the butler; an English Colonel with a prerequisite stiff upper lip; a French art dealer and a bumbling police inspector, mixed with a well meaning local sleuth who seems to attract murder wherever she goes!

Following a mysterious death, it soon becomes clear that the murderer isn't finished yet, but will they be unmasked before everyone else has met their doom or will the audience die laughing first??

Ramsbury Community Charity Shop

2026 has started well after a good Christmas. The six organisations who manned the shop until December each received £350.00. If you have unwanted Christmas presents or you are starting spring decluttering please keep us in mind. We have school uniform, toys, books, glasses, jigsaws, and more all at bargain prices. We need your donations and custom to enable we continue to support the local organisations, scouts, bowls club, church, lunch club, rec centre, WI, Ravensbury Players, British Legion. Thank you to our wonderful volunteers.

Sheila Glass Mary Holdsworth

LINK

LINK is around for lifts for medical appointments, shopping, hairdresser etc. Ring Penny on 520111 for details. Lifts are free - small donations welcome. We need more drivers - if you could help contact Penny- 45p a mile and expenses for light refreshments. There is no commitment, could be as little as a couple of hours a month. Last year we did 707 trips, 9,938 miles so thanks to our drivers. Coffee morning 10.30am Feb 6th British Legion. AGM is Thurs Feb 19th 7pm in the Church Rooms. Drivers, clients and public are invited.

Parish Council

Residents can help prevent flooding by clearing drain tops near their premises of leaves and detritus - this is surprisingly effective. If you think your property is in danger of flooding the Parish Council has aquasacs - dry flat sacks which swell in water to form a "sandbag" - these are available at 3 for £10 from the PC office - ring 520045 email parishcouncil@ramsbury.org. In emergency contact Sheila Glass 07979327505 or Alison Foale 07724063800 for a supply.

An experimental one way system in Union Street will be monitored for the effect on traffic in the village. A free session of CPR & defib training is planned.

Southwest Ambulance are interested in forming small local groups of first responders - if you are interested in either of these contact above for further details.

Three apple trees have been added to the community orchard, also hundreds of snowdrop and bluebell bulbs there so look for a spring display.

This year reading is being promoted - we are happy to report that issues and renewals in the library in Ramsbury are up 21%. Thanks to the volunteers who keep it available.

Police have warned that professional criminals are working in this area targeting isolated properties so exercise care.

Abandoned car on the recycling area near the surgery black Audi YE59 ZHG. If you own or know who owns either vehicle please remove it by February 15th.

The Parish Council is two councillors short. if you would like to be considered for co-option please contact the clerk as above.

Monthly walk on February 1st Axford via the River Kennet - 4 miles. Meet in the Square 2pm.

February meeting is February 16th 7.45pm Memorial Hall. All are welcome.

Advance Notices

3rd May Boundary Walk, more details to follow

20th June Ramsbury Street Fair

Edited by Karen Rees

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