

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Link Scheme Mon – Fri 9 -5 Tel 520111	1	2 Lunch Club Church Room 12-2pm	3 WI Meeting 7pm Church Room	4	5
6 See text for church services <hr/> Monthly Walk 2pm from the Tree	7 Cake & Co Methodist Chapel Aldbourne 10.30-12 noon	8	9	10	11	12 Hort Soc Spring Show Mem Hall 2-4pm
13 See text for church services	14 Parish Council Meeting 7.45pm Mem Hall	15	16	17 Flyer Outing, see text for details <hr/> WI Coffee morning BL 10.30am	18 Good Friday	19
20 Easter Sunday See text for church services	21 Easter Monday 	22	23 St Georges Day	24	25 WI Dining Club	26
27 See text for church Services	28	29	30 Lunch Club Church Room 12-2pm	Charity Shop Tue, Wed, Thur & Sat 10 – 12.30 Tue & Thur 2 – 4.30	Library – Free Internet Mon 2–4 Wed 10–12, Thur 2-4 Sat 10–12 noon	
<u>Every Sunday</u> Holy Cross Church see text for services <hr/> Methodist Church see text for services <hr/> Tennis Club 10.00am	<u>Every Monday</u> Short Mat Bowls Mem Hall 1.45-4pm	<u>Every Tuesday</u> 1 st & 3 rd Tue Art Group <hr/> Church Room 10-1pm Flyer to Marlborough 9.45am <hr/> Bowls club 5.45pm bowling green	<u>Every Wednesday</u> Flyer to Hungerford 10.00am	<u>Every Thursday</u> Coffee Morning Lychgate 9.30am <hr/> Phoenix Pizza Memorial Hall 4.45-8pm <hr/> Bowls club 5.45pm bowling green	<u>Every Friday</u> Ramsbury Silver Band Axford Village Hall 7.30- 9.30pm <hr/> Flyer to Hungerford 10am	<u>Every Saturday</u> Junior Football 10.00am <hr/> April 2025



Ramsbury and Axford Village Diary April 2025

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



Sustainable option - read me @ www.ramsbury.org.uk – Parish Mags - Diary



HAPPY EASTER



Nature Notes by Peter Marren

This is the time of year when you note the first awakenings of spring. There was an early spawning of frogs in a friend’s garden pond on 22nd February which happened to be the warmest day of the year so far. They arrived by night in a loud croaking chorus, and a day later had vanished as soon as they appeared, leaving humps of spawn on the water. Unfortunately, the pond later froze over and some of the spawn with it. This is an occupational hazard for frogs. In a dry season the opposite may happen, when their shallow pools dry up. That is why a single frog must produce so much spawn.

On the same day I spotted the first celandines opening on sunny banks, soon followed by the primrose – the *prima rosa* or ‘first flower’. The tender leaves of Wild Garlic were appearing (the flowers follow in April) and the first dandelions. Did you know there are about 300 different kinds of dandelion? This incredible variation is due to an absence of normal pollination. Instead the dandelion ripens seed without sex, producing clones that are genetically identical to the mother plant. It clearly works because dandelions occur everywhere except on the highest mountains.

By the first days in March many people had seen bright yellow male Brimstone butterflies, still fresh after their long hibernation among the ivy. By mid-March our Wild Daffodils were coming into flower. We have only a few patches of the genuine wild form, although similar types have been planted at Littlecote and elsewhere. The true wild one is smaller and paler than the garden daff, more subtle and, I think, more beautiful, especially in their natural setting of woodland. And on 7th March I received reports of oil beetles, big, black, flightless beetles found on sunny banks where they associate with early bees. Their favourite food is buttercups. If you spot one plodding across the road, do rescue it!

Bird Notes by Paul Swan

As we transition from winter to spring, so many of our winter residents start to head off and the inbound migrants start to arrive. The golden plovers will be heading back to the north of England, while the fieldfares and redwings will be off to Scandinavia. We already have chiffchaffs, blackcaps and Cetti’s warblers here and in song. The swallows should arrive in the next couple of weeks, followed by the house martins and the swifts at the beginning of May.

This is also peak nesting season. Our blackbirds are building their nest in the hedge, finches will be in shrubs, wrens in ivy and robins close to the ground. Virtually all our garden birds build their nests below our head height. It is surprising that we spot so few of them! We have seen numerous red kites flying with nesting material in their beaks or claws, and they will be heading for much higher elevations.

Some lovely sightings have included mistle thrush and song thrush, ravens, mandarin ducks, goldcrest, and a welcome kestrel soaring over the garden. Friends are lucky enough to have a pair of bullfinches nesting in their garden and making full use of the birdfeeders. Reported sighting of the month must be seeing a goshawk on a tree branch in the Savernake, munching on a squirrel while appearing totally unconcerned by the watchers just a few feet below.

Rainfall by Robert Osmond

February rainfall was 77.50mm, just above the average of 75.68mm. There are signs that the very wet spell we have had in the last two years might be coming to an end. The last five months actual rainfall is only 30mm above average, and March starting very dry so the trend has continued. An important warning however, “If March comes in like a lamb it goes out like a lion”. We shall soon see!

Recreation Centre 200 Club

Here are the 200 Club results for March :- £100 to Bob Osmond, £50 to each of Ian Ritchie, Roger Henry, Jen Stoye, Victoria Compton and Peter Cheney and £25 to each of Chris Wilson, Rosie Pauline, Ajeya Shetty, Laurie Roberts, Barry Stephens and Steve Sherman.

Holy Cross and the Whitton Parish

As we approach Easter and celebrate the Easter story, there are lots of extra services this month to which all are welcome. In addition to our Sunday services at Holy Cross, a short (said) service of Holy Communion takes place each Thursday at 10.00am (except Maundy Thursday).

Services for April are held at Holy Cross, Ramsbury (unless otherwise noted).

Sunday 6th 10:00am: Regular Team Holy Communion - this month in St Nicolas Church, Baydon.

Sunday 13th April Palm Sunday 9:30am: Matins (traditional language) followed by the Annual Local Church Meeting (ALCM).

Holy Week - a reflective pilgrimage at 7:00pm:

Monday 14th: St Michael's, Aldbourne

Tuesday 15th: St Nicholas, Baydon

Wednesday 16th: St Mary's, Chilton Foliat

Maundy Thursday 17th: Holy Cross, Ramsbury with Holy Communion

Good Friday 18th: 2:00pm Readings and Reflections

Easter Day Sunday 20th: 5:45am Sunrise service at Roundabout Wood, Spring Hill.

9:30am Holy Communion

6:00pm St Michael's, Axford - Easter Celebration

Sunday 27th: 8:00am Holy Communion (traditional language)

9:30am Cafe Church

Aldboune Methodist Church Service

Sunday 6th April 10.30am Service led by Local Preacher.

Sunday 13th April 10.30am Palm Sunday H/C Service led by Revd Stephen Skinner.

Friday 18th April Good Friday, walk of witness with Hot Cross Buns to follow (see noticeboard for time).

Sunday 20th April 10.30am Easter with The Ramsbury Silver Band and a service local Preacher.

Sunday 27th April 10.30am Local Arrangement led by a steward and members of the Church.

All are welcome to join us for our services, remember this church is now your Methodist church.

Coffee Morning every Thursday at the Lychgate Room starts at 9.30am. Join us for coffee and raise funds for our local charities by swapping puzzles and books.

Ramsbury WI

Thursday 3rd April meeting 7pm in the Church Rooms. Rachel Davies from Wiltshire Police is coming to give advice on avoiding scams. Visitors welcome, any enquiries to 520908. Thursday 17th April Coffee Morning in the Royal British Legion Club, 10.30am onwards. Friday 25th April Dining Club lunch at The Pelican. Full details will be circulated to members. Enquiries to 520261.

Ramsbury Roxy

Sunday April 6th, The Brutalist at the Royal British Legion. 6pm Start. Please visit www.ramsburyroxy.org or the Post Office for tickets.

Lunch Club

Lunch Club will be meeting on Wednesday 2nd and 30th April. We look forward to welcoming all our guests.

LINK

LINK is here to provide lifts for people who cannot drive themselves for whatever reason, either temporarily due to a short-term problem or permanently. We can organise lifts to medical appointments, script collection, hairdressing, shopping etc. Please ring Penny on 01672 520111 for details. No charge for the service but small donations are welcome. First Friday of each month we hold a free coffee morning for clients and drivers in the British Legion. Clients who would like to come please ring Penny to organise a lift.

We are desperately short of drivers, without whom the service cannot work. The commitment is as much or as little as you wish. We pay 45p a mile and light refreshments if a trip involves a wait. If you would like to join us, please ring Penny for more details. We are very grateful to our present drivers who are absolute stars and to Penny Willetts our co-ordinator for her time and unfailing good nature. LINK committee.

Easter Flowers in Holy Cross, Ramsbury

The flower group will soon be busy decorating Holy Cross for Easter. Do find time to pop in and enjoy the arrangements from Saturday 19th April for approximately 10 days.

Ramsbury & Aldbourne Bowls Club

The season starts in early April, new members are welcome. We have club nights on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and for more information contact Bob Black on 07799 857872 or Helen Gilmour on 07979 595999. Look forward to seeing you there.

Spring Show and Bowls Club Fundraiser

Ramsbury Horticultural Society will be holding their annual Spring Show in Ramsbury Memorial Hall on Saturday 12th April 2-4pm. Entry is free and open to all. Schedules are available in Ramsbury Post Office and Charity Shop or <http://www.ramsburyhortsoc.co.uk>. Classes include:- flowers, vegetables, home industries, arts and crafts as well as children's classes. Do come along and enjoy a pleasant afternoon or even better enter the classes! Teas and raffle will be provided by Ramsbury Bowls Club.

Flyer Outings - available to all local villages

Thursday 17th April, an afternoon visit to the Bombay Sapphire distillery in Whitchurch: an hour and a half guided tour of the beautiful buildings and learning about the process of making the gin: £19.80 entry and Flyer fare £10.00.

Monday 12th May, a visit to Bowood to see the Woodland Garden, an oasis of bluebells, azaleas, magnolias and rhododendrons: more info from Janet.

Thursday 15th May (afternoon) : a chance to explore the Flower Festival at Salisbury Cathedral "The Spirit of Water" : magnificent arrangements in a stunning location.

Sunday 18th May, the Mystery Tour come along and be surprised!

See diary page for local shopping trips. Aldbourne passengers please book a seat with Janet. Please call Janet for more information and to book your seats: 01672 520682 or 07584 253117. Surgery transport is available on Tuesday pm and Thursday am. Book via the Receptionist at the Surgery.

Allotments

Please contact Denise Edwards allotments@ramsbury.org or 07867921878 for information.

Ramsbury Community Charity Shop

Continuing to do well, £2,000 distributed to six organisations in March. We should soon have Paul New's wonderful plants. The shop works because of the of the volunteers from the organisations who benefit and we are as ever grateful to them, as well as helpers behind the scenes. Everything we do is based on recycling and sustainability. We turn your unwanted goods into cash for organisations which need it so please keep the donations coming in and most importantly come to find a bargain. Sheila Glass Mary Holdsworth

Parish Council

There are elections on May 1st for 15 Parish Councillors and for a Unitary Councillor for Aldbourne & Ramsbury. Details for nomination are on the website www.ramsbury.org.uk or contact the clerk at parishcouncil@ramsbury.org The deadline for nominations is April 2nd. To vote in these elections you will need photo ID.

The Boundary Walk on Sunday May 4th Keep the date. The walk will start in the Square and will finish at the British Legion for a well-earned pint! The Ramsbury Flyer will be on hand to give lifts to the stops. Watch for more details during April.

Currently considering quotes for play equipment at Whittonditch and for replacement SIDS, these will record details of traffic speeds and other data which will allow us to interact with Wiltshire Police. We hope to have new play equipment in place in the late spring. We have entered the Best Kept Village competition this year so please keep an eye on litter and weeds in gutters. A few flowers in tubs would be nice. Judging is in May. If you go for a local walk take a bag and gloves-unfortunately it doesn't take long to fill one. Helen Lloyd, one of our present Councillors, filled two black bags in less than an hour from the verges.

Advanced Notices

Sunday 4 May Boundary Walk
Tuesday 13 May 5.30pm Memorial Hall AGM - all welcome

Edited by Karen Rees

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