

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Charity Shop</b> Tue, Wed, Thur & Sat 10 – 12.30 Tue & Thur 2 – 4.30		<b>Link Scheme</b> Mon – Fri 9 -5 Tel 520111	<b>Library – Free Internet</b> Mon 2–4 Wed 10–12, Sat 10–12 noon	<b>1</b> WI Meeting Church Rooms 7.30pm	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> See text for church services <hr/> Village Walk The Square 2.30pm	<b>5</b> Cake & Co Methodist Chapel Hall Aldbourne 10.30-12noon	<b>6</b> Art Group Church Room 10-1pm	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Flyer Trip to Mudeford	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Hort Soc Summer Show Mem Hall 2-4pm
<b>11</b> See text for church services	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> WI Meeting – see text for details	<b>14</b> RAGS	<b>15</b> WI Coffee Morning RBL 10.30am onwards	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> See text for church services	<b>19</b> <u>Lunch with Flyer team</u> Parish Council Meeting Mem Hall 7.45pm	<b>20</b> Art Group Church Room 10-1pm	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> See text for church Services	<b>26</b> August Bank Holiday	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Flyer to Newbury Horse Racing Evening	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Flyer Trip to Bournemouth Air Show
Holy Cross Church see text for services <hr/> Methodist Church see text for services <hr/> Tennis Club 10.00am	<u>Every Monday</u>	<u>Every Tuesday</u> 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tue Art Group Church Room 10-1pm <hr/> Bowls Club 5.45pm at Bowling Green <hr/> Flyer to <b>Marlborough</b>	<u>Every Wednesday</u>  Flyer to <b>Hungerford</b>	<u>Every Thursday</u> HC Communion service 10am <hr/> Bowls Club open evenings 5.45pm at the Bowling Green <hr/> Phoenix Pizza is on a break. Back in September	<u>Every Friday</u> Ramsbury Silver Band Axford Village Hall 7.30- 9.30pm <hr/> Flyer to Hungerford	<u>Every Saturday</u> Junior Football 10.00am <hr/> <b>August 2024</b>



# Ramsbury and Axford Village Diary

## August 2024

May we have items for the next diary before the 17th of the month.

Please email to [diary@ramsbury.org](mailto:diary@ramsbury.org)



Sustainable option - read me @ [www.ramsbury.org.uk](http://www.ramsbury.org.uk) – Parish Mags - Diary

### **Nature Notes** by *Peter Marren*

All the rain this spring and summer has had at least two noticeable outcomes. One is the sheer luxuriance of the vegetation. River weeds, including Stream Water-crowfoot, did well, encouraged by a fast flowrate with sediment running off fields in the rain. Tall herbs like hogweed, meadow-sweet, and, above all, stinging nettles flourished, and, for the first time, in my experience, the path at Seven Bridges became overgrown in places. I needed to take a pair of clippers to clear a path. We should be getting a fine crop of blackberries this autumn, judging by the thick blossom everywhere. Many wayside flowers have done well, including the pretty blue flowers of Meadow Cranesbill, which brighten many a verge in June and July. I spotted a big patch of one of our rarities, the Lesser Teasel, on Hilldrop Lane. This tall relative of the common teasel has prickly white flowers about the size of a ping-pong ball. It used to grow in quantity on the Littlecote track until its places became shaded over.

Unfortunately all this blossom hasn't meant a rise in nectar-feeding insects. In fact, this has been about the worst summer for flying insects that I can remember. River-flies (may-flies) are reported to be scarcer than ever, though, curiously, river-monitoring of their early stages didn't suggest a sudden fall. Slugs, on the other hand, did very well indeed. Most butterflies were in smaller numbers than usual, with the exception of the Ringlet, our darkest butterfly, which has little circles on its back wings. Perhaps significantly, this is one butterfly that can fly in cloudy weather and even light rain. There are also reports of the day-flying Jersey Tiger-moth, as pretty as any butterfly, with 'tiger-striped' forewings, in Ramsbury gardens. This is a new arrival, moving north, perhaps in response to climate change. The smaller Scarlet Tiger-moth, with its brilliant crimson hind-wings, has been seen in reasonable numbers in gardens by the river, where its hairy, yellow-spotted caterpillars feed on Comfrey. Let's hope, for the sake of the natural world, that these cold wet springs and disappointing summers do not become a trend!

### **Bird Notes** by *Paul Swan*

I am grateful to Peter and Margaret for most of the sightings this month, and some of them have been very special. On the track to Littlecote, they saw two kestrels becoming very agitated and repeatedly diving down close to the ground – it turned out that they were 'buzzing' a fox that was stalking one of their fledglings! A few days later in the same area some 20 red kites were chasing a tractor, and they were again being 'buzzed' by one of the kestrels. Very territorial indeed, and pretty brave when you consider the size of a red kite!

There have been further sightings of yellow wagtails in the village and on Spring Hill, together with spotted flycatchers, and blackcaps with recently fledged chicks. Several corn buntings have also been seen up on the hill, which is unusual for us.

In the garden, our wrens duly fledged, but stayed around for a few days, returning each evening to sleep in the nest box. One young blackbird has stayed nearby, and this morning its dark brown speckled breast looked stunning in the sunshine.

On the sunny evenings our Ramsbury swifts have been screaming through the skies, while over the hill in Froxfield, I spotted a flock of over thirty on a sunny afternoon.

### **Rainfall by Robert Osmond**

Finally, a month with below average rainfall, the first for twelve months. We had 23.5mm which is well below the June average of 57.5mm. The 15<sup>th</sup> of July is St. Swithin's Day and the old saying is, "St. Swithin's Day if thou dost rain for forty days it will remain, St. Swithin's Day if thou be fair, for forty days will rain na mair". We will soon find out how accurate this saying is!

### **Recreation Centre 200 Club**

Here are the 200 Club results for July: - £100 to Peter Osmond, £50 to each of David Stoye, Darren Arekion, Danny Watson, Trevor Hunter and Tor Petley, £25 to each of Paul Swan, Brian Coates, Shelley Sawers, Victoria Compton, Michael Franklin and Robert Osmond.

### **Holy Cross and the Whitton Parish**

All services at Holy Cross, Ramsbury unless otherwise stated.

4<sup>th</sup> August - 11am Team Holy Communion at St. Mary's, Chilton Foliat.

11<sup>th</sup> August - 8am BCP Holy Communion (traditional language).

11<sup>th</sup> August - 9.30am BCP Matins (traditional language).

11<sup>th</sup> August - 11.30am Informal worship via Zoom / Phone-in.

18<sup>th</sup> August - 9.30am Café Church.

18<sup>th</sup> August - 11.30am Informal worship via Zoom / Phone-in.

18<sup>th</sup> August - 4pm Muddy Church, starting from St. Michael's, Aldbourne.

25<sup>th</sup> August - 9.30am Holy Communion.

25<sup>th</sup> August - 11.30am Informal worship via Zoom / Phone-in.

Thursdays 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> August - Holy Communion (said) at Holy Cross.

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> - 7pm Reflective Spaces at St. Michael's, Aldbourne.

For Zoom services: 0203 481 5240 or 0208 080 6591 ZOOM Meeting ID: 948 3407 2630 Passcode: 343860

### **Aldboune Methodist Church Service**

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August 10.30am Service led by a local Preacher.

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> August 10.30am MHA Sunday, Service led by Revd. Geoffrey Floyd.

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August 10.30am Section Service at Pewsey H/C led by Revd. Stephen Skinner.

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> August 10.30am L/A Service led by Local Preacher.

All are welcome to join us at our weekly services in Aldbourne.

The churches together Fete held on 29th June in Aldbourne, raised a grand total of £4,700 to be shared between the churches. A huge thank you to the Committee.

Coffee mornings are held every Thursday in the garden at Whitehill Close, from 9.30am onwards.

### **Ramsbury WI**

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> August Monthly meeting at 7.30pm in the Church Rooms. Sarah Delves, expert lecturer for the V & A Museum, is coming to talk about The History of Handbags. Visitors welcome. Competition - "an interesting handbag". Enquiries to 520908. Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> August tea and cake meeting 3pm at 18 The Paddocks to hear Muriel Lye speak about her long and varied life. Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> August Coffee Morning at the Royal British Legion, 10.30am onwards, enquiries to 520261.

### **Ramsbury & Axford Golf Society**

Next event the Burj Trophy, sponsored by the Burj Restaurant, at West Berks. Golf Club on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> August. Further details from John Harrod on [johnharrod238@gmail.com](mailto:johnharrod238@gmail.com)

### **Roxy**

Ramsbury Roxy returns in September.

### **Lunch Club**

Lunch Club is on summer holiday for August. The club starts again on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September.

### **Horticultural Society**

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> August Ramsbury Horticultural Summer Show 2 - 4pm. Ramsbury Memorial Hall. Do you enjoy coming to the shows to see exhibits only to say 'Mine are better!' If so, why not enter - you have to be in it to win it! Schedules can be found in Ramsbury Post Office or email [hortsoc@ramsbury.org.uk](mailto:hortsoc@ramsbury.org.uk)

Entries to [hortsoc@ramsbury.org.uk](mailto:hortsoc@ramsbury.org.uk) by noon on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> August or in person at Ramsbury Memorial Hall 6 - 8pm Friday 9<sup>th</sup> August.

## LINK

If you need a lift for medical appointments, hairdressing, shopping etc call Penny on 520111. There is no charge for this service, however small donations are welcome but not essential. We need drivers to be able to offer this service. If you think you could help us, get in touch. We pay mileage and expenses.

### **Ramsbury Flyer Community Bus and Trips**

Tuesdays Flyer to Marlborough, leaving Ramsbury at 9.45am (route varies), returning 12 noon. Bus passes can be used.

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> August, the Flyer goes to Newbury, leaving Ramsbury Square at 11.30am, other pick-ups available, returning 2.30pm. Fare £5 and seats must be booked with Janet (see below). Bus passes cannot be used.

Wednesdays and Fridays Flyer to Hungerford leaving Ramsbury at 10am. Bus passes may be used. Please note, Aldbourne passengers now need to book their seats with Janet: for more information, see posters in Aldbourne.

#### **Flyer Trips**

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> August: our usual seaside trip to Mudeford and Christchurch : come and enjoy some sea air !! fare £25.

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> August: another opportunity to have lunch with Vanessa and Carena: details to be advised.

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> August: an evening at the horse races in Newbury: come and back a winner! Fare £5

Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> August: take the Flyer to the Air Show in Bournemouth: free entry and only £25 fare.

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September: Newbury Show, leaving early to beat the traffic. A grand day out. Fare £6.

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**

Plot enquiries to Denise Edwards on 07867 921878/ [allotments@ramsbury.org](mailto:allotments@ramsbury.org)

#### **Ramsbury Community Charity Shop**

Just passed the six month mark and still doing well in the new premises. Thanks to Chris Perkins and Jane Palmer who manned the shop after its usual closing time on the day of the Street Fair. We took over £200 and another £108 on a pop-up jigsaw stall for which we are grateful to Joan Edwards for supervising. As usual we thank all the helpers who keep the shop manned and the donors and shoppers who make the whole enterprise work. Please keep on donating and buying sustainably – a definite win, win for all. Sheila Glass & Mary Holdsworth

#### **Parish Council**

The next monthly walk is on August 4<sup>th</sup> 2.30pm at the tree venue TBA, watch the website [www.ramsbury.org.uk](http://www.ramsbury.org.uk) and poster in the Square for details.

Ramsbury came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the first round of the Best Kept Village competition - by one point!

We are trying to increase the database. We only need your name, address, telephone and email (some of us remember a telephone directory, that's basically all this is) but it would greatly simplify communication in case of emergency. If you haven't filled in a form yet, please contact the clerk on [parishcouncil@ramsbury.org](mailto:parishcouncil@ramsbury.org)

The Parish Council is a custodian trustee of the Memorial Hall. Robert Osmond has retired as Chairman of the Trustees and Management Committee. We would like to thank Robert for the many years of service he has given as Chairman, during which the hall has gone from strength to strength; he's a hard act to follow! We now welcome Kingsley Setter as the new Chairman.

We are still looking to co-opt a new Councillor so if you think you could help in this way please contact the clerk as above. The August Parish Council meeting is on August 19<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome.

#### **Advance Notices**

7<sup>th</sup> September Axford Fete, 2 – 5pm

14<sup>th</sup> September The London Tango Quintet Concert, Holy Cross 7pm

21<sup>st</sup> September Cricket Club Oktoberfest at Rudge Farm

30<sup>th</sup> September Ramsbury Talk: Sir John Sawers and Will Walden in conversation

*Edited by Karen Rees*

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