

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Ramsbury & Axford Link Scheme Mon-Fri 9 – 5 Tel 520111		Ramsbury Library Mon & Thur 2 - 4pm. Wed & Sat 10am - 12pm		Ramsbury Charity Shop Tue, Wed, Thur & Sat 10 – 12.30. Tue & Thur 2 – 4.30		1 RHS Summer Show 2pm
2 NO Village Walk in August	3	4	5	6 WI Outing to Hillier Garden Centre Flyer Dundas Arms	7 Link coffee morning RHS meeting Church Rooms	8
9 Aldbourn Methodist Church Singles Lunch 12.30	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20 WI Coffee Morning 10.30am RBL Club	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	The Village Diary is available on the Ramsbury website every month. See www.ramsbury.org.uk – What's on - Village Diary				
<u>Every Sunday</u> Holy Cross See text for services Methodist Church See text for services Tennis Club 10.am	<u>Every Monday</u>	<u>Every Tuesday</u> 1 st & 3 rd Tue Art Group Scout Hut 10-1 Bowls Club 5.45 pm at the Bowling Green Flyer to Marlborough	<u>Every Wednesday</u> Flyer to Hungerford Bingo Ramsbury British Legion Club 7 for 7.30pm_	<u>Every Thursday</u> Phoenix Pizza Memorial Hall 4.45 to 8pm Bowls Club open evenings 5.45 pm at the Bowling Green	<u>Every Friday</u> Ramsbury Silver Band Axford Village Hall 7.30- 9.30pm Flyer to Hungerford	<u>Every Saturday</u> Junior Football 10am August 2026



Ramsbury and Axford Village Diary

August 2026



May we have items for the September Diary before 17 August.

Please email to diary@ramsbury.org

NATURE NOTES by *Peter Marren*

This prolonged hot weather has produced a landscape I last saw in 1976 (as a young man): a *chiaroscuro* pattern of light and dark with the deep green shade of late summer contrasting with parched straw-coloured grass. Our parks are coming to resemble the savanna of east Africa, and you could easily imagine a giraffe or zebra wandering into view. Is this what the future holds for us? The insects seem to like it. I have seen more butterflies this summer than for several summers' past, and the gatekeeper, one of our last butterflies to emerge, was flying in the hundreds, feasting on bramble, marjoram and ragwort. On a morning visit to Savernake in late June, we saw no fewer than six purple emperors, a personal record for that magnificent, tree-top dwelling butterfly. More emperors have been spotted nearer to home, especially at Bottom Copse. On the river there were numerous banded damselflies and southern and brown hawker dragonflies and, in the long grass more grasshoppers than for many a year, though mostly of the same species, the meadow grasshopper, the one whose song lasts ten seconds or more, starting quietly and rising to a screeching crescendo.

I have been looking for old and unusual trees for a planned "Trees of Ramsbury", to be the third booklet in our series after "Birds of Ramsbury" and the forthcoming "Wild Flowers of Ramsbury". We seem to have many special trees, some easily accessible in public places, others quietly shut away in gardens. Among the stars are two mighty holm or evergreen oaks, centuries old, an ancient pear tree, a pair of magnificent umbrella pines, several spreading walnuts, a rare black poplar and an equally rare small-leaved lime. Our oaks must be among the most prolific in the county, spreading their mighty lower limbs over lanes, or towering over bracken and hazel scrub in our coppice woods. We have several whose girth is greater than four metres at chest height and at least one which exceeds seven metres. Unlike Savernake where some of the older oaks are pollards, our trees are mostly maiden oaks. And thank goodness, most of them look healthy.

BIRD NOTES by *Paul Swan*

This long hot, dry spell doesn't suit everybody, but the swifts seem to be very happy. They are out every evening, screaming through the sky in search of food. We have regularly seen over 20 at any one time, which must be made up of both adults and their young. Most of their nests are high up in the eaves, but one nest on the High Street is much lower, with the entrance just a small hole in the brickwork. In August they will all head off to Africa, with the adults leaving first and the youngsters following on this incredible journey with no guidance except their instinct.

The spotted flycatcher population has dropped by 90% since 1970 and is on the Red List of endangered species. So, it was a special treat to see two adults and four chicks at Seven Bridges. Another pair have bred successfully in a house porch in the village. Strangely, they often nest in porches!

There is only one local bird that chooses to lay eggs in August. The goldfinch is one of our prettiest birds and feeds the young exclusively on thistle seeds, usually one of August's bumper crops. Look out for recently fledged goldfinches alongside their parents. They lack the spectacular white, black and red that makes the adults so distinctive.

RAINFALL by *Robert Osmond*

June was a month of two halves. A very wet first eleven days with more than the monthly average, followed by two weeks with very little rain. Total rainfall for June was 73.60 mm, average for the month is 57.23 mm. The dry spell has continued into July and from mid June to mid July we have had just 8.40 mm. We seem to be constantly breaking weather records both in amounts of rainfall and high temperatures. Another difficult year for gardeners and farmers.

Recreation Centre 200 Club July results

£100 to Veena Nandha, £50 each to Laurie Roberts, Rosemary Triptree, Joy Wilson, Jason Walsh and Danny Watson and £25 each to Geraldine Smith, Betty Herbertson, Tim Wade, Peter Willetts, Bob Osmond and Vicky Hellyer. 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

Ramsbury Horticultural Society Summer Show

Saturday 1 August The Summer Show opens at 2pm - Presentation of awards at 4pm

- Entry by email to entry steward by 7pm Friday 31 July
- In person at the Memorial Hall, High St between 6 - 7:30pm on Friday 31st July
- No new entries on Show Day

Schedules are available online, in Ramsbury Post Office and Charity Shop.

Saturday 1 August Stage your exhibits 9 - 10:30am in Memorial Hall

Entries can include Vegetables, Fruit, Flowers, Floral Art, Home Industries, Home Crafts, Arts and Crafts and Photography – something for everyone and you do not have to be a member to enter.

Neil Blade Sharpening will be present at the Summer Show - items to be labelled and delivered to the Memorial Hall on the morning of show.

Ramsbury and Aldbourne Bowls Club home matches for August.

Visitors welcome, undercover or greenside seating, refreshments available.

Saturday 1 August 10.30 am Royal Wootton Bassett	Wednesday 5 August 6.15 pm Hungerford
Monday 10 August 2.00 pm Swindon Town Gardens	Monday 10 August 2.00 pm Westlecot
Sunday 16 August 2.00 pm Marlborough	Wednesday 19 August 6.15 pm Lambourn

Holy Cross and Whitton Benefice Team Services

Sunday 2 August 10am Chilton Foliat Team Holy Communion

Sunday 9 August 9.30am Ramsbury BCP Matins (*traditional language*)

Sunday 16 August 9.30am Ramsbury Holy Communion

Sunday 23 August 8am Ramsbury BCP Communion (*traditional language*)
9.30am Ramsbury Café Church

Sunday 30 August 9.30am Ramsbury Contemporary Praise

- A short (said) service of Holy Communion takes place each Thursday at 10am in Ramsbury.
- 'Reflective Spaces' takes place at St. Michael's Church, Aldbourne at 7pm on the fourth Wednesday of the month

Aldbourne Methodist Church Services and More

Sunday 2 August 10.30am local Arrangement Service.

Sunday 9 August 10.30am service lead by Revd Rach Collins.

Sunday 16 August 10.30am H/C service led by Revd Mark Barrett.

Sunday 23 August 10.30am service led by local Preacher.

Sunday 30 August 10.30am service led by Local Preacher.

The Churches together Fete in June raised £4,500. Thankyou to all our helpers. Reverend Rach Collins will be covering the Aldbourne and Ramsbury area until we have a new minister. She can be contacted on email rach.collins@methodist.org.uk tel 01793 529263. We are still collecting stamps at chapel.

Sunday 9 August Singles Lunch at 12.30pm in the chapel hall. Cost £8. Please call Julie Coe on 521085

Art group once a fortnight on Fridays from 2.30pm in the Chapel Hall. Please call Revd Stephen Skinner for more details. £3 per session.

Coffee mornings will run in the garden at 6 Whitehill Close, Ramsbury every Thursday starting at 9.30am. All our welcome. We need your support to continue our coffee mornings, so please join us.

Ramsbury WI

Thursday 6 August 11am. Members outing to the Hillier Garden Centre, Hermitage. All members should know their transport arrangements by the end of July. Any queries to 01672 520261.

Thursday 20 August 10.30am onwards, Coffee Morning in the Royal British Legion.

Ramsbury Flyer Forthcoming trips

(Regular service details on <https://ramsburyflyer.org/>)

6 August Dundas Arms for lunch with Carena and Vanessa

14 September Milletts Farm Centre

26 September Mystery Tour!!!

5 October Bourton On Water

19 October Batsford Arboretum and Cotswold Falconry Centre

5 November Devizes

Contact Janet for details of pick-up and drop-off times 07584 253117.

Ramsbury Horticultural Society

Monday 7 September 7.30pm – The Resilient Gardener Sally Morgan MA MSC Botanist, author, environmental journalist. How to make your growing space better able to deal with changeable climate.

Talk at 7.45pm, Church Rooms, Back Lane Ramsbury. Members £2 , Visitors £4 incl raffle and refreshments.

Parish Council

Ramsbury has progressed to Round 2 of the **Best Kept Village competition**. Please keep Ramsbury clean and tidy. Please keep your dogs out of the play areas as their poo poses a real risk to young children's health. The PC provides bags to pick up, so please use them if you have forgotten to bring your own.

The **Dorset and Wiltshire Fire Service review** of the eight stations faced with closure was completed on 30th June. It confirmed that Ramsbury Fire Station was no longer under threat provided there are no further cuts in funding to DWFS by Feb 2027 and approval is given to increase Council Tax. However, one of the councillors of the DWFS proposed a motion that if the funding is not confirmed by February, the situation would be reviewed. This was not upheld, so the outcome would be that the closures automatically go ahead. More details on Facebook page for the Fire Service Union Dorset and Wiltshire.

Ramsbury Library will be taking part in the **Reading Challenge** this summer named "Read to the Beat".

The MyWilts App - where faults and issues are reported to Wiltshire Council - will be updated over the next 18 months, but currently if several reports are received for the same thing, only one will be kept on the system. You may receive notification that your report is cancelled, it does not mean the issue is being cancelled, just that the system can only cope with one report.

Sadly, someone has pulled up plants in the **Memorial Garden** leaving them to die. If anyone is aware of this happening please contact the Parish Council email parishcouncil@ramsbury.org

There will be **no Village Walk during August**. The next walk will be on 6 September.

Ramsbury Community Charity Shop

Takings have held up - one record Saturday the team took £185! 3 bikes and Clive Glass's plant supports have helped as well as Lawrence Park's sales of DVD and CD's and Joan Edwards' jigsaw sales at the street fair. Thanks to all of them. We have wet suits in child and adult sizes, sandpit toys, a tent and a selection of school uniform at £1 a piece. Thanks to all volunteers.

Sheila Glass Mary Holdsworth

LINK

Link is here to provide lifts for medical appointments, hairdressing, local shopping etc. Contact Penny on 520111 for details. LINK is free. Donations are welcome. We pay our drivers 55p and NHS centralisation of appointments is leading to more long distance lifts although our bread and butter is still local lifts to Marlborough, Swindon and the village. Drivers are the mainstay of the operation - without them we cannot function. If you could help please contact Penny for details. As little or as much commitment as you want to make.

Friday August 7th free coffee for clients and drivers in the British Legion.

Allotments

Despite the heat the allotments are thriving. Water onsite is included in the rent. Plots are ½ £40pa or a small (1.5m x 5m) bed £15pa. There are a few beds and one ½ plot available for half annual rent for the remainder of this year. Contact John Cody 07901692754 or Denise Edwards 07867921878 for details

Lunch Club

There is no Lunch Club for August as we take a break for summer holidays! Back again in September.

Ramsbury Roxy

There is no Roxy in August. Back in September.

Edited by John Herbertson

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