


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
	<b>Link Scheme</b> Mon – Fri 9 -5 Tel 520111		<b>Charity Shop</b> Tue, Wed, Thur & Sat 10 – 12.30 Tue & Thur 2 – 4.30		<b>Library – Free Internet</b> Mon 2–4 Wed 10–12, Thur 2-4 Sat 10–12 noon		<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> See text for church services	<b>3</b> Cake & Co Methodist Chapel Aldbourne 10.30-12 noon	<b>4</b> Flyer to Marlborough leaves Ramsbury at 9.45am	<b>5</b> Lunch Club Church Room 12-2pm	<b>6</b> WI.....	<b>7</b> Netball Race Night Mem Hall	<b>8</b>	
<b>9</b> See text for church services <hr/> Roxy – Macbeth 7pm	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Flyer to Newbury The Square 11.30am	<b>14</b> <i>Valentine's Day</i> 	<b>15</b>	
<b>16</b> See text for church services	<b>17</b> Parish Council Meeting Mem Hall 7.45pm	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Lunch Club Church Room 12-2pm	<b>20</b> Phoenix Pizza returns to Ramsbury Mem Hall 4.45-8.00pm	<b>21</b> Roxy – The Importance of Earnest 7pm	<b>22</b>	
<b>23</b> See text for church Services	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>		
<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 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tue Art Group Church Room 10-1pm  Flyer to <b>Marlborough</b> 9.45am	<u>Every Wednesday</u> Flyer to <b>Hungerford</b> 10.00am	<u>Every Thursday</u> Phoenix Pizza Memorial Hall 4.45-8pm	<u>Every Friday</u> Ramsbury Silver Band Axford Village Hall 7.30- 9.30pm <hr/> Flyer to <b>Hungerford</b> 10am	<u>Every Saturday</u> Junior Football 10.00am <hr/> <b>February 2025</b>	



# Ramsbury and Axford Village Diary

## February 2025



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*

As I write, the first aconites are appearing on lawns and in the churchyard, a cheerful little flower appearing at a time of year when we all need a little cheering. The single golden-yellow bloom, sitting on a kind of leafy ruff seems to glow like a candle. Snowdrops follow in a couple of weeks, and then the first celandines. In the meantime there are fungi. Although the mushrooms of the forest floor were poor last year, the bracket-fungi growing on dead logs and twigs are abundant. One big log we found, saw-cut at both ends, was completely covered by fungi in gorgeous patterns: orange frilly ones (called curtain-crusts) alternating with tiers of purple-grey brackets called turkey-tails, and lumpier whitish ones, the beech brackets. With so many fungi to support one wonders how long the log will last before it has been digested into sawdust. A friend of mine studied a fallen log of wild cherry from a tree more than sixty feet tall. It fed the fungi for at least fifteen years, by which time the log was little more than a shell, all rotted away within. Hard woods like oak will last a lot longer. Most old oaks are hollow and rotted within but are still healthy.

By coincidence, a small grove of wild cherries at Burnt Wood was badly knocked about by the late winds. Cherry wood seems to be brittle, unlike the supple hazel which bends with the wind. Yet a dead tree is as much a habitat as a live one. It will feed a host of fungi and invertebrates (and things that feed on them) for years. One doesn't expect much bright colour in mid-winter, but I was surprised to find some Scarlet Elf-cups, as bright as holly berries. These are cup fungi, like little egg-cups, scarlet within and with a fine felty bloom on the outside. If they were a bit earlier, I'd have been tempted to put them on the Christmas tree. Another example of nature at her most artistic can be seen on old walls, like the brick-and-flint wall bordering Moons Lane, a tapestry of mosses and lichens, some of the latter like little angel trumpets, and contrasting nicely with the deep orange brickwork. There was more beauty yet in the frosted hogweed stems outlined and illuminated by the low sun. Nature in mid-winter may be subtle but all the more beautiful to our colour-starved senses.

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

January has been a great month for sightings, particularly up on Spring Hill. Our resident group of over one hundred golden plovers have been joined by groups of fieldfares and redwings, all quite usual for this time of year, but in addition we have seen a flock of linnets, two bullfinches and an extremely white buzzard. The skylarks are still there and beginning to sing on sunny days. A daily sighting while the snow was on the hill has been a group of eight to ten very vocal red kites gathered on a fence, as if having a mothers meeting! Lower down there has been a gadwall duck on Manor Lake, together with a pair of Egyptian geese – very distinctive with their piebald wings and red legs. A shy water rail has been spotted on the edge of the river, while marsh tits, nuthatches, meadow pipits and chiffchaff have all been seen in the valley. In the garden we have been putting out water as well as food while the pond was frozen. The water has seemed to be even more popular than the food. While watching the pond we were amused to see a thrush literally skating on the ice!

### **Rainfall** by *Robert Osmond*

Another incredibly wet year. 2023 with 1297.2mm had probably been the wettest year ever, but 2024 nearly exceeded that, falling just short with 1291.1mm. Had it not been for a relatively dry December with 69.8mm, average 93. mm, the rainfall record would have been broken again. Both the last two years have been 50% above the annual average, something we may not see again for many years. Finally in January some wintery weather. As the old saying goes, "as the days grow longer the cold grows stronger".

### **Recreation Centre 200 Club**

Here are the 200 Club results for January:- £100 to Paul Swan, £50 each to David Stoye, Julia Blunt, Mary-Anne Ewing, Ted Hiscocks and Peter Randall and £25 each to Mary Hope, Martin Vigors, Dennis White, Rodney Owen-Jones, Peter Willetts and Saskia Stephenson.

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

2nd February (Candlemas)	10.00am Ramsbury - Team Holy Communion.
9th February	8.00am Aldbourne - BCP Communion (trad. language), 9:30am Ramsbury - BCP Matins (trad. language).
16th February	8.00am Chilton Foliat - BCP Communion (trad. language), 9:30am Ramsbury - Holy Communion.
26th February	8.00am Ramsbury - BCP Communion (trad. language), 9:30am Ramsbury - Café Church.
2 <sup>nd</sup> March	10.00am Aldbourne - Team Holy Communion,

The season of Christmas and Epiphany ends with our celebration of Candlemas at our Team service of Holy Communion on February 2nd at 10am. We remember the 40-day old Jesus being presented in the Temple in Jerusalem and wise old Simeon and Ann recognising the faithfulness of God in sending him.

As Lent and Easter are late this year, the rest of February follows our 'normal' pattern. You are welcome to join us for any of our worship.

A short (said) service of Holy Communion takes place each Thursday at 10.00am in Ramsbury.

A meditative service 'Reflective Spaces' takes place at St. Michael's Church, Aldbourne at 7.00pm on the fourth Wednesday of the month.

NOTE: our ZOOM services are currently on hold - please let Revd Beth Hutton know if instead you would like a home communion visit.

## **Aldbourne Methodist Church Service**

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 10.30am Service led by Local Preacher.

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February 10.30am Sled by Rev Mark Barrett.

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February 10.30am Service led by Revd Stephen Skinner.

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 10.30am Service led by Local Preacher.

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

We would like to thank the Ramsbury Silver Band and everyone who attended on 16th December round the tree to sing Christmas carols.

You are warmly invited to join us at our coffee mornings in the Lychgate Room, 9.30am every Thursday. It's a great way to make new friends and find out more about our village. This year we have raised a grand total of £ 467.38 to supports our local Charities bringing the balance to £743.76. Please bring your puzzles and books to swap. It's amazing what drinking coffee and a chat can accomplish, so let's keep this going.

## **Ramsbury WI**

Thursday 6th February monthly meeting at 2.30pm in the Church Rooms. Jenny Whiting will speak on Aromatherapy - How Essential Oils can Enhance your Life. Visitors welcome. Enquiries to 520908.

Thursday 20th February Coffee Morning in the Royal British Legion Club, 10.30am onwards.

## **Pancakes**

Please join us for pancakes in the Church Rooms on March 4<sup>th</sup> 2.00 – 4.30pm.

## **Ramsbury Roxy**

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February Macbeth with David Tennant, 7.00pm.

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February NT Live: The Importance of Earnest, 7.00pm

Please visit [www.ramsburyroxy.org](http://www.ramsburyroxy.org) or the Post Office for tickets.

## **Lunch Club**

Lunch Club will be meeting on Wednesday 5th and 19th February. We look forward to welcoming all our guests.

## **LINK**

Don't forget LINK, we are still here for lifts for medical appointments, shopping, visiting etc. Small donations are welcome but not essential. Call Penny on 520111 for details.

We need drivers to continue this service. If you could help, please call Penny.

## **The Ravensbury Players**

The Players are proud to present " 'ALLO 'ALLO 2 - The Camembert Caper" in Ramsbury Memorial Hall on 20th, 21st & 22<sup>nd</sup> of March 2025 with evening performances on Thursday, Friday and Saturday plus a Saturday matinee. The war is still raging in France and Rene and his team face a new challenge, with even more chaos and misunderstandings, producing another fast-moving comedy and an evening of fun and laughter for the audience.

Evening performances start @ 7.45pm - doors open 7.00pm/ Matinee starts @ 2pm - doors open at 1.15pm. Tickets available from Ramsbury Post Office, online [Ramsbury event tickets from TicketSource](#), and from Chris Perkins 07799802070, email [cfp4176@gmail.com](mailto:cfp4176@gmail.com) All tickets £12 each. Licenced Bar in the evening and tea and cake for the matinee. We look forward to welcoming you - until then A bientot!

## **Flyer Outings - available to all local villages**

Thursday 20th February: in the afternoon, a visit to Welford Park to see the snowdrops with heated marquee for refreshments. £6 fare. Entry charge £10.00.

Thursday 27th March: Flyer lunch with Vanessa and Carena, at the Brewers Arms, Wanborough, leaving Ramsbury at 12.30. Fare £4.00.

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.

## **Ramsbury Safari Supper**

On Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March come and enjoy a 3 - course meal in various homes or venues in Ramsbury at this fun social event. Meet new people as you move to a different host for each course, dining with new guests each time. Tickets: £30 per head (£20 for hosts). All proceeds to local charities. To volunteer as a host (starter or main) or for more information, please contact Felicity on: [misshavanaclub@gmail.com](mailto:misshavanaclub@gmail.com)

## **Allotments**

Please contact Denise Edwards [allotments@ramsbury.org](mailto:allotments@ramsbury.org) or 07867921878 for information.

## **Ramsbury Community Charity Shop**

The payout to organisations last quarter was £350 each, a total of £2,100 was raised. Organisations involved are Scouts, Bowls Club, Holy Cross Church, Lunch Club, Rec Centre, British Legion, Ravensbury Players and the WI. Please pop in and pick up a bargain. This is sustainability in action- give us things you don't want and we'll turn them into money for village organisations via customers who get a great deal. This is the second year in our new premises. Last year was very successful and we look forward to a good 2025. Thank you to our generous donors and our customers-we need you! Sheila Glass Mary Holdsworth

## **Parish Council**

Doug Greenway has been co-opted as a Councillor. We welcome Doug who has been involved with the Council as a leader of the Boundary Walk. There is an election for Parish Councillors in May. Anyone interested in taking part in the life of the village as a Councillor should contact the clerk on [parishcouncil@ramsbury.org](mailto:parishcouncil@ramsbury.org) for details. New swingsets have been purchased for Axford and Whittonditch - we are researching other equipment for Whittonditch. New noticeboard on the wall of the Post Office. This is for notices about village events and anything of interest to residents. The key will be held by the Post Office. Aquasacs are available £10 for 3 from the PC office. Residents can report highways problems such as potholes and faulty streetlights directly on MyWilts reporting system on [www.wiltshire.gov.uk](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk). Three vehicles have been parked on the recycling centre near the surgery for over 3 months. If you know to whom they belong, please advise them that they will be removed to be scraped after Feb 5<sup>th</sup>. They comprise a black BMW HG56EOF, blue VW Polo PE53CFM and a green Landrover VX53ZWH. Police report for Oct -Dec shows a car was stolen from Back Lane, an attempted vehicle theft in Oxford Street, no household burglaries, speed checks in Froxfield and Chilton Foliat found no drivers exceeding the speed limit. Check the Parish Council website [www.ramsbury.org.uk](http://www.ramsbury.org.uk) for village events and news. Monthly walk on Sunday February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Meet at 2pm by the tree. The Boundary Walk this year will be on Sunday May 4<sup>th</sup>. Feb PC meeting is on 17<sup>th</sup> Feb at 7.45pm in the Memorial Hall. All are welcome.