

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
2 Village Walk The Tree 2pm	3 RHS Talk Church Rooms 7.30pm	4 Shrove Tuesday Pancakes Church Rooms 2.30 – 4pm	5 Lunch Club	6 WI meeting Church Rooms 7pm	7	8
9	10	11 Ramsbury Roxy Conclave - RBL	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19 Lunch Club	20 WI coffee morning RBL Club 10.30am	21 Ravensbury Players ← 20 to 22 March →	22 'ALLO 'ALLO 2
23	24	25	26	27 Flyer Outing Bishop of Ramsbury Live at Holy Cross	28 NT Live Memorial Hall Dr Strangelove	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 notices Methodist Church See notices Tennis Club 10.am	<u>Every Monday</u> Short Mat Bowls Memorial Hall 2– 4pm	<u>Every Tuesday</u> 1 st & 3 rd Tue Art Group Church Room 10-1 Flyer to Marlborough 9.45am	<u>Every Wednesday</u> Flyer to Hungerford 10am	<u>Every Thursday</u> Coffee Morning Lychgate 9.30am Phoenix Pizza Memorial Hall 4.45 to 8pm	<u>Every Friday</u> Ramsbury Silver Band Axford Village Hall 7.30- 9.30pm Flyer to Hungerford 10am	<u>Every Saturday</u> Junior Football 10am March 2025



Ramsbury and Axford Village Diary March 2025



May we have items for the April diary before 17 March.
Please email to diary@ramsbury.org

NATURE NOTES by *Peter Marren*

I have been away in a hot place, Oman, so these notes will have to be brief. On my departure the winter aconite was coming into flower on the lawn, and on my return, three weeks later, they were already over, and snowdrops were out on the verge opposite, most of them still tight. The hazel catkins on the verge were now yellow and pugging with pollen. Winter aconite is the first wildflower of the year, and normally out by mid-January. Its single golden-yellow flower sits on a curl of sepals that give it the folk name of 'choirboy's ruff'. The flowers are said to open only when the air temperature approaches ten degrees Centigrade, which is also the temperature when overwintering bees can fly. Winter aconite is not a native flower, but it does occur fully wild just across the Channel, so it's not surprising it does well here, spreading mainly by budding from its underground tubers. Actual aconite is another name for monkshood, and winter aconite acquired its name because of the resemblance of its leaves to that plant. They are not in fact closely related, though both contain heart poisons known as glycosides.

I know of at least one lawn in the village which usually sprouts a good crop of shiny, colourful toadstools known as waxcaps. Depending on the species they can be yellow, orange, red, green, or even purple. One of them is a distinctive bright pink, and because its cap flares and splits as it grows, it is known as The Ballerina. This is a rare fungus in Europe, and there may be more of it in rainy Britain than in the rest of the continent combined. Hence, I was delighted to hear that the Ballerina has appeared on at least one lawn in the village, a real feather in our cap!

BIRD NOTES by *Paul Swan*

Spring Hill and Burnt Wood continue to be rich in bird life. The golden plover, fieldfares, redwings and skylarks are all present in some numbers, but the surprise was to see eleven lapwings on the airfield. A few years ago, the lapwings came regularly and brought up their young there. Fingers crossed that they will return. The resident ravens have been 'cronking', and as they are one of the earliest birds to lay eggs, we expect to see the young birds soon.

Towards Littlecote, we have been keeping an eye on the tree where red kites nested last year. The nest has almost gone now but we see a red kite nearby every time we visit. It will be interesting to see if it starts this year's nest in the same tree. We also had the absolute treat of seeing a barn owl not far away. These stunning, and very popular birds are in steep decline – mainly due to deaths on major roads and being poisoned by rat and mouse poison.

In the garden we have been entertained by a family of blackbirds. Mum, Dad, two young males and a young female. They now feel that they 'own' one of our bird tables. The young female is particularly tame and stays remarkably close while I am restocking their larder. Probably because a few minutes later either mum or dad appears and chases her off. Pecking order!

RAINFALL by *Robert Osmond*

Some of you may have had a "dry January" but Ramsbury certainly didn't! Rainfall for the month was 132.30 mm, well over the average of 96.73 mm. It was the wettest since 2014 when we had over twice the average with 204 mm. In the last 19 years there has been only one "dry January", in 2019 with 35.40 mm. Forecast for summer, if we have snow. "If February give much snow, a fine summer it does foreshow".

Recreation Centre 200 Club February Winners

£100 to Pat Coates, £50 each to RAGS, Mark Palmer, Gillian Hill, Sir John Sawers, Tim Pope and £25 each to Ian Hamilton, Marina Souter, Mike Franklin, Meg Boyle, Lionel Barnes and Bart Quintin-Smith.

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

Full details for Whitton Benefice are published in Whitton Ways this month

Sunday 2 March 10am Aldbourne Team Holy Communion

Holy Cross Church

Wednesday 5 March 10am Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes

Sunday 9 March 9.30am BCP Matins (traditional language)

Sunday 16 March 9.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 23 March 8am BCP Communion (traditional language) 9.30am Café Church

Sunday 30 March 9.30am All Age Worship 11am Baptism

Short (said) service of Holy Communion each Thursday (except 6 March) at 10am in Holy Cross

Methodist Church Services

Sunday 2 March 10.30am Service led by Local Preacher.

Sunday 9 March 10.30am 1st week in Lent, Service led by Local Preacher.

Sunday 16 March 10.30am 2nd week in Lent, Service led by Revd Stephen Skinner.

Sunday 23 March 10.30am 3rd week in Lent, Service led by Local Preacher.

Sunday 30 March 10.30am Mothering Service led by Revd Andrew Bird.

All our welcome at our church services. This is your Methodist Church, please use it.

Coffee Morning every Thursday at the Lychgate Room starting at 9.30am. Join us for coffee, and raise funds for local charities, swap puzzles and books are fun things to do and read during the dark evenings.

Parish Council

Sunday 2 March monthly walk meet at the tree for 2pm start.

There are three apple trees on the P C site near the surgery. This is the beginning of a community orchard.

New community noticeboard outside the Post Office - keys from the Post Office. Use it for any notices of community interest. We are currently getting quotes for new equipment on Whittonditch play area.

Two vehicles left on the recycling area by the surgery have been removed but VW Polo PE53CFM remains.

There is an election for all Parish Councillors in May. Nominations must be in by 1 April. If you are interested in standing as a councillor contact the clerk on parishcouncil@ramsbury.org for details.

Agenda and minutes for Parish Council meetings can be viewed at www.ramsbury.org.uk

The March Parish Council meeting will be held in Axford village hall on Monday 17 March. All are welcome

Boundary Walk on 4 May. Most of the walk will follow the original route but it will **START** and **FINISH** in the village. The lunch stop will be at Ramsbury Brewery. The tea stop will still be on the airfield but we will then walk down into the village. We have some wonderful volunteers to lead the walk but a few more people willing to lead for a small proportion of the walk would certainly ease the pressure.

Ramsbury Horticultural Society

Monday 3 March 7.30pm in the Church Rooms, Back Lane. Talk by Val Bourne, an award-winning garden writer and organic gardener and lecturer. The talk, "Bombproof Roses for The Modern Gardener", covers the roses, their companions, rose pruning and feeding. Members £1 visitors £2

Pancakes

Tuesday 4 March 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.

Lunch Club

Lunch Club this month will be on Wednesday 5 and Wednesday 19 March.

Ramsbury WI

Thursday 6 March meeting **7pm** in the Church Rooms. Leonie Doore and Abigail Holgate will talk about "Modern Millinery: Making, Wearing and Styling". We have been promised lots of hats to try on! Visitors welcome, any enquiries to 520908.

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

Ramsbury Roxy

Tuesday 11 March in **Ramsbury Royal British Legion: "Conclave"** Classification 12A. "Conclave" follows one of the world's most secretive and ancient events – selecting the new Pope. Cardinal Lawrence (Ralph Fiennes) is tasked with running this covert process after the unexpected death of the beloved Pope. Once the Catholic Church's most powerful leaders have gathered from around the world and are locked together in the Vatican halls, Lawrence uncovers a trail of deep secrets left in the dead Pope's wake, secrets which could shake the foundations of the Church. **Starring:** Ralph Fiennes, Isabella Rossellini, Stanley Tucci, John Lithgow. Doors open 7pm. Performance starts at 7:30pm. Running Time: 2 hours Tickets £6

Friday 28 March in **Ramsbury Memorial Hall: NTL "Dr Strangelove"** Classification 15. Seven-time BAFTA Award-winner Steve Coogan plays four roles in the world premiere stage adaptation of Stanley Kubrick's comedy masterpiece "Dr. Strangelove". This funny satire, about a rogue U.S General who triggers a nuclear attack, is led by a world-renowned team including Emmy Award-winner Armando Iannucci and Olivier Award-winner Sean Foley. Doors open 6:30pm for a 7pm start. Running Time: 180 mins. Tickets £12

The Ravensbury Players

20, 21 & 22 March The Ravensbury Players present " 'ALLO 'ALLO 2 - The Camembert Caper", in Ramsbury Memorial Hall. Evening performances on Thur, Fri & Sat plus Sat matinee. The war is raging in France. 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 7pm/ Matinee starts @ 2pm - doors open at 1.15pm. Tickets from Ramsbury Post Office, online [Ramsbury event tickets from TicketSource](#). and from Chris Perkins 07799802070, email cfp4176@gmail.com Tickets £12. Licenced Bar in the evening / tea and cake for the matinee.

Ramsbury Flyer

Thursday 27 March Flyer lunch with Vanessa and Carena, at the Brewers Arms, Wanborough, leaving Ramsbury at 12.30. Fare £4.

See calendar 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.

Andrew Rumsey, Bishop of Ramsbury, Live at Holy Cross

Thursday 27 March at 7.30pm (doors open 7pm). Andrew Rumsey – author, musician and Bishop of Ramsbury joins us for an evening of folk songs, poems and readings. Performing songs from his new record 'Collodian', Andrew will take us to unusual corners of our country's heritage, especially the Wiltshire landscape and its historic churches. Drinks available before and during interval. Tickets from Ramsbury Post Office, Ian Smith or online at friendsofholycross.org.uk/ £10, children 11-16 free

LINK

Need a lift to a medical appointment, hairdresser, shopping, visiting a friend etc? Call Penny on 520111. The service is free, small donations are welcome. We can only provide this service if we have enough drivers. If you feel you could help please contact Penny. The commitment is as large or as small as you would like. We pay 45p a mile and light refreshments for long trips.

Charity shop

Now into the 2nd year in our new premises. We are the ultimate in sustainability, turning your unwanted items into cash for village organisations. Please check out the shop. We have things you didn't even know you needed. Thank you to the volunteers who man the shop and to donors. Sheila Glass Mary Holdsworth

Allotments

Now is a brilliant time to take on an allotment, to get the plot ready for planting and then things can only get better. Start now and by summer you could be harvesting a wonderful array of crops. An allotment gives you open air, exercise and fresh crops; much better than supermarket produce and cheaper than a gym. Full plot is £60 a year, half plot £35 a year, or try a taster bed (or two) at £10 a year. Contact Denise Edwards on 07867921878 for details.