

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 Charity Shop Tue, Wed, Thur & Sat 10 – 12.30. Tue & Thur 2 – 4.30				1 WI meeting 7pm	2	3 Scout Quiz Memorial Hall 7pm
4 Village Walk The Square 2pm I Swear (Roxy film) RBL Club 7.30pm	5 Flyer to Bourton On Water	6	7	8 Flyer to Newbury	9	10 WI Country Market RHS Autumn Show Concert in Holy Cross 6pm
11 White Horse Festival Concert Holy Cross 3.30pm	12	13	14	15 WI coffee morning RBL Club 10.30am	16 The Misanthrope NT Live Memorial Hall 7pm	17
18	19 Flyer Outing See text for details	20	21 Lunch Club	22	23 Fish & Chips Van Memorial Car Park 5 to 7.45pm	24 ATE Talk St. Michaels Aldbourne 7.30pm
25	26	27	28	29	30 The Christophers NT Live 7.30pm Memorial Hall RBL Pool Competition	31
<u>Every Sunday</u> Holy Cross See notices Methodist Church See notices Tennis Club 10am	<u>Every Monday</u> Short Mat Bowls Memorial Hall 2 – 4pm	<u>Every Tuesday</u> Flyer to Marlborough 1 st & 3 rd Tue Art Group Ramsbury Scout Hut 10-1	<u>Every Wednesday</u> Flyer to Hungerford Bingo Ramsbury Royal British Legion Club 7 for 7.30pm	<u>Every Thursday</u> Holy Cross Lychgate Coffee morning 9.30 – 11.30am Phoenix Pizza Memorial Hall 4.45 to 8pm	<u>Every Friday</u> Flyer to Hungerford Ramsbury Silver Band Axford Village Hall 7.30- 9.30pm	<u>Every Saturday</u> Junior Football 10am October 2026



Ramsbury and Axford Village Diary

October 2026



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

NATURE NOTES *by Peter Marren*

Every September my front doorframe is bridged by a spider's web. It is built, seemingly overnight, by a garden spider, a beautiful orb web with the spider, probably a female, sitting in the middle, awaiting whom she can devour. As spiders go, she's a likeable beast, her bloated body adorned with white spots in the shape of a cross, or, as some say, like a diadem. She goes scampering into the hedge when I open the door. I'm reluctant to disturb her, and so, touchingly, is the postman. Our spider has taken all summer to grow up. Her mate is already dead, possibly killed and eaten by her, and she too will die by the time of the first frosts, leaving her eggs, wrapped in silken weatherproof sacks, to overwinter and then release little orphan spiderlings in the spring.

This spider is one of the few small beasties I can think of with garden in their name. There are remarkably few. Off the top of my head, there are only three moths, a bumblebee, a beetle, and a snail. And yet hundreds of insects and spiders live happily in gardens. Among the latter are tiny money spiders that make sheet webs in the grass. One notices them more in September because after the cooling nights, droplets of dew dapple the webs in the morning. These webs are made by tiny spiders that get around by 'ballooning' on self-made silken threads. This mode of travel can take them a long way, though, without navigational aids, they have no choice where they land.

By the time you read this I hope that ***Wild Flowers of Ramsbury*** will be out and on sale in the Post Office. It is the second on our series of village wildlife after ***Birds of Ramsbury***. It is to be followed in due course by ***Trees, Butterflies and Moths***, and ***Wild Animals***.

The reason behind the felling of willow scrub at the far end of Newtown Road was a mystery to many of us. Apparently, it was because the trees were considered dangerous and so had to be felled by contractors working for Eastridge Estate.

BIRD NOTES *by Paul Swan*

Sadly, one of our favourite garden birds is under threat. Many of us have seen dead and dying blackbirds around the village recently. They are being decimated by Usutu, a deadly disease carried by mosquitoes. This was first noticed in the London area in 2020 and has now spread throughout southern England. The spread of this disease seems to be another result of global warming. We can help by cleaning out bird baths and bird feeders every week.

We will expect our autumn visitors to arrive in October, but at the time of writing there are still some swallows and house martins feeding up before they head south. The fieldfares, redwings and golden plover are all on the way to spend winter with us.

Autumn is of course the season of berries. Blackbirds and thrushes will eat almost any berry, but other species are much more selective. The redwings and fieldfare love holly berries, mistle thrushes go for sloes and mistletoe berries, starlings like blackberries, robins go for ivy, a taste that they share with pigeons, while tits and finches can be seen chewing away at rose hips.

All being well, our evenings should soon be enhanced by the haunting calls of our local tawny owls. Best heard on a misty autumn evening.

AUGUST RAINFALL *by Robert Osmond*

Finally, the two-month drought ended with some welcome rain in the last ten days of August. Total for the month was 42.50 mm, about two thirds the monthly average. Despite the exceptional dry spell average rainfall for the year so far is only just below average, due to the large amounts of rainfall in January and February. The extreme variations in the amounts of rain we are having further emphasises the necessity to increase our reservoir capacity.

Recreation Centre 200 Club Results

£100 to Steve Standage, £50 each to Ian Walker, Bruce Ginger, Jilly Doore, Flora Turley & Charles Gardner & £25 each to Alice Charlwood, Si Smith, Amanda Turner, Cath Vine, Fi Cresswell & Margaret Mitson.

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

The Refurbished Lychgate Room

The much-loved Lychgate Room, part of the Memorial Hall, has had a fantastic refurbishment and is now looking better than ever! Available for hire, it provides a bright, comfortable and welcoming space for up to around 15 people. Perfect for small meetings, clubs, gatherings, talks, coffee mornings or private occasions. Book via the website and for enquiries, please contact Kingsley Setter (kingsley@gmail.com)

Ramsbury WI

Thursday 1 October WI meeting in the Church Rooms, Back Lane at 7pm. Dad's New Dress - Vanessa Tanner's talk about the emotional journey she went on as she came to terms with having a trans-gender parent. Visitors welcome. Any enquiries to 01672 520908.

Saturday 10 October – WI Country Market in tandem with the Autumn Show, 2pm Ramsbury Memorial Hall. Stall selling cakes, puddings and preserves plus raffle for a hamper. Cash only please.

Thursday 15 October – coffee morning in the Royal British Legion, 10.30am onwards.

Whitehorse Festival 1 to 11 October

Extraordinary musical experiences, in harmony with nature. For info visit www.whitehorsefestival.co.uk

1 Oct Feast and Fling, 3 Oct March to the Beat, 4 Oct Rooted in Earth, 8 Oct An Organists's Odyssey, 9 Oct Play and Paint the Seasons, 9 Oct Notes on Colour, Festival Opera Gala Dinner, 11 Oct Old Oak's Woodland Party, 11 Oct The Secret Song of the White Horse, 11 Oct Trumpet Fireworks

Holy Cross and Whitton Benefice

Sunday 4 October	10am	St Michael's Aldbourne	Team Holy Communion
	6pm	St Michael's Axford	Harvest Festival
Sunday 11 October	9.30am	Holy Cross Ramsbury	BCP Matins (<i>traditional language</i>)
Sunday 18 October	9.30am	Holy Cross Ramsbury	Holy Communion with Seedlings activity for children
Sunday 25 October	8am	Holy Cross Ramsbury	BCP Communion (<i>traditional language</i>)
	9.30am	Holy Cross Ramsbury	Café Church

A short (said) service of Holy Communion takes place each Thursday at 10am in Ramsbury.

'Reflective Spaces' takes place at St. Michael's, Aldbourne at 7pm on the fourth Wednesday of the month.

Aldbourn Methodist Chapel

Sunday 4 Oct 10.30am Service led by Local Preacher.

Sunday 11 Oct 10.30am Sunday service led by Revd Mark Barrett looks at how prisons are run.

Sunday 18 Oct 10.30am H/C service led by Revd Rach Collins.

Sunday 25 Oct 10.30am Service led by Local Preacher.

Sadly, Coffee mornings which Julie Coe has run since 1996, have ended. The number of villagers attending has dropped off and, despite financial help from the circuit, the return is insufficient to cover the cost of hiring the Lychgate Room. Julie sends her thanks to her husband Robin for helping and to all the villagers for their support over the years. Many thousands of pounds have been raised for our special charities helping many in and around our community. So thank you to you all.

Ramsbury Roxy

Sunday 4 October **I Swear** in the Royal British Legion Club at 7.30pm £6

Friday 16 October **NT Live The Misanthrope** in the Memorial Hall at 7pm £12

Friday 30 October **NT Live The Christophers** in the Memorial Hall at 7.30pm £12

You can buy tickets from the Ramsbury Roxy website or Ramsbury Post Office.

Holy Cross concert with Musicke in the Ayre

Saturday 10 October Holy Cross 6 to 7.30pm Beguiled and Blue: Ayres to the Lute: Alysha Paterson and Alice Simmons present some vocal gems of the Stuart era, from Dowland to Purcell, with Din Ghani on lutes £12 on the door (under 18 free) or from <https://www.ticketsource.com/musicke-in-the-ayre/t-mjrzzlo>

Ramsbury Flyer

For all regular services please see our website or green pamphlets at Ramsbury Post Office.

For our trips - book your seat with Janet 07584 253117.

5 October **Bourton On Water** or alternatively Birdland Park and gardens leaving 9.30 am Fare £17

8 October **Newbury** leaving Ramsbury Square at 11.30 am. Returning from Newbury at 2.30pm. Fare £5

19 October **Batsford Arboretum and/or Cotswold Falconry Centre** leaving at 9.15 Fare £17

5 November **Devizes** market day 12 December **Cirencester** for Christmas shopping

Ramsbury Horticultural Society

Saturday 10 October Autumn and WI Country Market Show opens at 2pm - presentation of awards 4pm in the Memorial Hall, High Street, Ramsbury. Please ensure you have an entry form for your exhibit.

Members and non-members are welcome to exhibit. Schedules will be available in Ramsbury Post Office.

Entries by 7pm on 9 Oct or in person at the Memorial Hall 6-7.30pm. Stage exhibits 9 – 10.30am on 10 Oct.

Monday 2 Nov 7.45pm Talk - Off the Beaten Track, Hidden Gems by Andrew Tolman in the Church Rooms

Lunch Club

Wednesday 21 October Lunch Club

Short Mat Bowls in the Memorial Hall

The season starts on Monday 21 September. We play every Monday from 2 to 4pm and have 3 mats available. If you already play lawn bowls come along and give this indoor variation a try. The same woods are used, and it is equally as skilful, and enjoyable. If you've not played bowls before and are tempted to play we have sets of woods available. To add to the enjoyment there is a mid-session break for tea and biscuits. For more information contact Bob Osmond on 07967 372225 or Clive Adolph on 07584 680145.

Ramsbury and Axford Poppy Appeal 2026

The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal will run from Thursday 22 October to Sunday 8 November this year. Static collection boxes (with Remembrance merchandise) will be available in The Surgery, Midway Stores, The Bell, The Post Office, RBL Poppies Cafe and the School. A house-to-house collection will be available within Isles Court. The 2025 Ramsbury and Axford Poppy Appeal raised over £3,100 towards this extremely worthy cause. Every penny donated is appreciated.

Sunday 8 November Ramsbury village parade, Remembrance Service and refreshments in RBL Club.

Parish Council

There have been occasions when **traffic cones** have been placed in the road outside houses in the High Street. This is unlawful obstruction of the highway under Sec 137 of Highways Act 1980 and is fineable.

The **Library** is holding an Adult reading challenge until Christmas - please use our library.

Some areas of the village have seen low water pressure or had water turned off during the hot weather.

The PC suggests keeping a **5-litre bottle of water** as a standby, in case of a break in supply.

There has been an issue with **dog poo** on the zipline seat at the **Ashley Piece playground**. If vandalism and dog mess continue on play areas the PC may consider applying for a PSPO (public space protection order)

When this comes into being **No Dogs** are allowed at all. **Please do clear up after your dogs.**

The Fire Brigade are recruiting 'on call' firefighters for Ramsbury. We desperately need more volunteers to ensure our station remains viable. Closure is still a possibility if funding is not agreed by the Government. Please do continue lobbying your MP. You can find the details on Contact your MP - UK Parliament. The budget process is managed by the Fire & Rescue Authority and will go through various meetings ahead of the final decision in February. Please do keep reinforcing the message by contacting the members of the Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service/Fire and Rescue Authority.

Food for thought - fish & chip van in the Memorial Hall car park

23 October, 21 November and 12 December 5pm to 7.45pm. Pre order tel, text or WhatsApp 07515 288414.

Talk by Sarah Annable-Gardner MBE Chief Executive of ATE(Ghana)

Saturday 24 October in St Michael's Aldbourne at 7.30pm. Sarah, an excellent speaker, will talk about Action Through Enterprise. Please support your local charity. Entrance free but retiring donations welcome. Doors open at 7pm for glass of wine or soft drink. Supported by St Michael's Aldbourne.

Edited by John Herbertson

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