


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Cake & Co Methodist Chapel Hall Aldbourne 10.30-12noon RAGS Bingo MH 7pm for 7.30pm	3 Art Group Church Room 10-1pm	4 Lunch Club Xmas Lunch Church Rooms 11.30 – 2pm	5 WI Meeting <u>Royal British Legion</u> 2.30pm	6 Ramsbury Primary School Christmas Market 5-7pm at the school	7 Charity Shop does Christmas 10-12.30 Bella Voce Winter Concert Holy Cross 7.00pm
8 See text for church services	9 Parish Council Meeting Mem Hall 7.45pm	10	11	12 Flyer to Newbury Sq 11.30am	13	14 Christmas Bingo Axford village hall 6.30-10.30pm
15 See text for church services	16 Carols around the tree with Ramsbury Silver Band 7pm	17 Art Group Church Room 10-1pm	18	19 WI Christmas Lunch Mid-winter carols Aldbourne Methodist Church 7.00pm	20	21
22 See text for church services	23	24	25 Happy Christmas to all our readers 	26	27	28
29 See text for church Services	30	31	Charity Shop Tue, Wed, Thur & Sat 10 – 12.30 Tue & Thur 2 – 4.30	Link Scheme Mon – Fri 9 -5 Tel 520111	Library – Free Internet Mon 2–4 Wed 10–12, Thur 2-4 Sat 10–12 noon	
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> Flyer to Marlborough 9.45am	<u>Every Wednesday</u> Flyer to Hungerford 10am	<u>Every Thursday</u> Phoenix Pizza Memorial Hall 4.45-8pm Last visit will be 5 th Dec.	<u>Every Friday</u> Ramsbury Silver Band Axford Village Hall 7.30- 9.30pm <hr/> Flyer to Hungerford 10am	<u>Every Saturday</u> Junior Football 10.00am <hr/> December 2024



Ramsbury and Axford Village Diary December 2024



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

Please email to diary@ramsbury.org

Sustainable option - read me @ www.ramsbury.org.uk – Parish Mags - Diary

Nature Notes by *Peter Marren*

The autumn, though very wet during September and October, remained more or less frost-free before mid-November, and so many tall trees retained their foliage. When the sun deigned to shine, Savernake Forest was a wonderful sight, with copper oaks, yellow maples, and beech in the range of colours including russet, tawny, and what I call old gold (they glint like gold when caught by the low afternoon sun). A few oaks and beeches retain their leaves well into the winter in a phenomenon known as marcescence. This is presumably a genetic adaptation, and one could imagine reasons why it could help the tree. More leaves mean better protection of the buds from air frosts. It might put off the squirrels, for these late leaves are full of tannins and taste bitter. Or it might be that a slow but steady fall of leaves near the roots will recycle nutrients to the tree's advantage. Whether all that is enough to offset the energy costs in maintaining a leafy canopy through the winter is uncertain; probably not or more trees would do it!

This has been perhaps the worst year ever for fungi that grow among fallen leaves on the forest floor. There has been some spectacular sprouting of bracket fungi on logs and stumps, sometimes arranged artistically and a delight to the eye. But otherwise, why there hasn't there been a fungal feast to match the unprecedented rainfall? My best guess is that it has been *too* wet. Wet soil is cold soil, and fungi need warmth as well as damp to put on a spurt of rapid growth resulting in the bodies we know as mushrooms and toadstools. If you have an old lawn, you might have seen some little yellow matchstick-sized bodies in the grass. These are fungi known as fairy clubs and are quite harmless. There are similar ones that come in a variety of other colours: pure-white, buff, apricot, rose, even purple. Grassland fungi are often in bright colours, in contrast to the beiges and browns of many woodland species. Why the bright colours? I don't think anyone knows, but it certainly brightens up the grass once the flowers are over.

Bird Notes by *Paul Swan*

November has been a great month for autumn sightings. The flock of golden plover has continued to increase, while we now also have the first of the fieldfare and redwing on the lower slopes of Spring Hill and other areas. Just as last year, we also have a large flock of over fifty linnets hurtling around the old airfield. All these are now expected, but the sighting of a lapwing, and on another day a woodcock gave special pleasure.

Lower down, in the village, the unusual sightings have included a great white egret and a goosander on the river and three parakeets in a village garden! These will have been rose ringed parakeets, and they are a non-native species. Modern folklore says that all the parakeets in the UK escaped from Ealing Studios during the filming of *The Africa Queen* in 1951.

In the wildlife area behind the Fire Station, we have heard both chiffchaff and Cetti's warbler, both species now overwintering in the UK. There has been a mistle thrush taking up winter residence near Harbrook, and ravens 'cronking' over the village more frequently than usual.

December can be a tough time for birds, and if we get any serious snow this month many ground feeding species, such as skylarks will migrate further west until the ground beneath them is green rather than white.

Rainfall by *Robert Osmond*

October continued our long spell of wet weather with 94mm, just 1mm over the average for the month. Nearly all the rain fell in the first 19 days with only 2.5mm in the last 12 days. The dry spell has continued into November which has been good news for farmers needing to plant crops.

Recreation Centre 200 Club

Here are the 200 Club results for November: - £100 to Alison Harrod, £50 to each of Sarah Swan, Tony Prior, Alison McFee, Mary-Anne Ewing and Ken Bates and £25 each to Paul Snook, Kim Roberts, Melissa Brown, Bob Foale, Geoff Doel and Carol Howard. Thank you to everyone for your support this year! It is very much appreciated. The December draw will once again have an extra £100 prize. Good luck!

Holy Cross and the Whitton Parish

1st December	11:00am Baydon - Team Holy Communion
8th December	8.00am BCP Comm, 9:30am BCP Matins, 4:00pm AXFORD Carol Service
15th December	8.00am BCP Communion, 5:00pm Carols by Candlelight
22nd December	9:30am Holy Communion
29th December	11:00am Aldbourne - Team Holy Communion
24th December	4:00pm Christingle, 11:00pm Communion for Christmas night
25th December	9:30am Christmas all-age Communion

NOTE: ZOOM services are currently on hold - please let Revd. Beth Hutton know if you require a home visit. There is a short Holy Communion service every Thursday morning at 10am (EXCEPT Boxing Day).

Christmas is coming! Our churches will be celebrating the season of ADVENT - looking toward to the celebration of the coming of Jesus into our world as a baby at Christmas.

It is a season of Carols - Christingles - and culminating in the celebrations of Christmas itself. We shall also be treated to a seasonal concert in Holy Cross by Bella Voce on 7th December.

Aldbourn Methodist Church Service

Sunday 1st December	10.30am service led by Revd Andrew Bird.
Sunday 8th December	10.30am service led by Rev David Gray.
Sunday 15th December	10.30am H/C service led by Revd Stephen Skinner.
Sunday 22nd December	10.30am Service led by Local Preacher.
Sunday 29th December	10.30am service led by Rev Rachel Collins.

Mid-winter Carols will be held at 7.00pm on Thursday 19th December at Aldbourne and Ramsbury Methodist Church. Join us for carols around the tree on Monday 16th December at 7pm with the Ramsbury Silver Band, all are welcome to attend.

Bring a small gift along to swap on Thursday 12th December, this will be our last meeting before Christmas. Coffee Mornings will re-start again on Thursday 9th January at the Lychgate Room from 9.30am onwards.

Ramsbury WI

Thursday 5th December Monthly meeting in the **Royal British Legion Club** at 2.30pm (please note change of venue and afternoon meeting). Sue Birley is coming to tell us about her travels with a Brompton folding bicycle. Visitors welcome. Enquiries to 520261. Tickets will be on sale for the New Year Lunch on Friday 10th January 2025. After the meeting tickets can be purchased from Ramsbury Post Office up to the end of December. Thursday 19th December Christmas lunch at the Crown in Aldbourne. Transport provided. Menus will be available at the 5th December meeting. Enquiries to 520908. Please note the Carol Concert on 2nd December has been cancelled.

Bella Voce - A Seasonal Celebration of Song

Bella Voce Choir invite you to join us for an evening of seasonal song on Saturday 7th December, 7.30pm, Holy Cross Church, Ramsbury. Doors open at 7pm, Adults £8 accompanied under 18's free. Bar and Raffle. Tickets are available from Ramsbury Post Office.

Ramsbury & Axford Golf Society

Christmas Bingo, Monday 2nd December in Ramsbury Memorial Hall. Doors open at 7.00 pm, eyes down at 7.30pm.

Ramsbury Roxy

Friday 6th December: 42nd Street The Musical, Memorial Hall, 6:30 for 7pm start.

Tuesday 17th December: The Holdovers, RBL, 7pm for 7:30pm start.

Sunday 29th December: Wolf, Witch, Giant Fairy, Memorial Hall, 4:30pm for 5pm start.

Please visit www.ramsburyroxy.org or the Post Office for tickets.

Lunch Club

Ramsbury Lunch Club will be holding its Christmas meal on Wednesday 4th December at 11.30am.

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.

Lost in the Woods

Many thanks to everyone for supporting the wonderful evening with Paul Swan when he described his journey into the design and creation of beautiful objects in wood. The evening raised £1,200 which has been donated to the charity Action through Enterprise and its life changing work in Upper North West Ghana.

Flyer Outings - available to all local villages

Monday 9th December Wantage Fare £6.00. A pretty place to go at Christmas, with lots of local and independent shops and a lovely market square. Leaving at 10.00am.

Monday 23rd December extra shopping trip to Hungerford, leaving 10.00am fare £3.00

In February, we are planning a Snowdrops trip, look out for further details.

Please let us know if there are any ideas for trips in 2025!

See diary page for local shopping trips. Aldbourne passengers now need to book their seats 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.

Allotments

Applications for tenancies at the allotment site for next year are being considered. To apply for a plot (£65 whole plot, £35 half plot £10 taster bed) contact Denise Edwards allotments@ramsbury.org or 07867921878 for details.

Ramsbury Community Charity Shop

The Charity Shop is celebrating Christmas on December 7th and for the rest of December. We have decorations, trees, lights, stocking fillers, presents, toys, books and lots more. You can have a sustainable Christmas without breaking the bank and local organisations will benefit. You can pay by cash, cheque or BACS. It is almost a year since we moved premises and we are delighted that support has continued unabated. Merry Christmas to all our customers and our wonderful staff. Sheila Glass Mary Holdsworth

Parish Council

Thank you to everyone who worked so to make the Remembrance Day ceremony and service go smoothly. Special thanks go to Bob Foale who organised everything, Beth Hutton who led the service and scouts, beavers and schoolchildren.

By the time you read this the Christmas trees should be up - as usual Ramsbury Estates have undertaken placing the small trees and Tim & Ed Pope organise the electrics in the Square.

The above draws attention to the part that members of the community play in keeping the facilities in the village working. We are fortunate to have so many people who are willing to help keep things going, many as volunteers. We should also appreciate how lucky we are to have two shops in the village and I cannot emphasise how important it is that we all use them.

A large piece of play equipment at Whittonditch has suffered catastrophic failure and will be removed as soon as possible - we hope to replace it in the Spring, funds permitting.

Local planning applications and news and events can be viewed on our website www.ramsbury.org.uk

The Parish Council meeting in December is on December 9th - the second Monday in the Memorial Hall 7.45pm. Wine and mince pies - all are welcome to attend.

Advance Notices

Friday 7th February	Netball Race Night, Memorial Hall
19th – 22nd March	Ravensbury Players Spring Production, Memorial Hall
Friday 23rd May	Ramsbury Ball, Hilldrop
Saturday 7th June	Ramsbury Beer & Cocktail Festival, Ramsbury Brewery
Saturday 21s June	Ramsbury Street Fair

Edited by Karen Rees

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