

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Ramsbury & Axford <b>Link Scheme</b> Mon-Fri 9 – 5 Tel 520111		<b>Ramsbury Library</b> <b>Mon &amp; Thur 2 - 4pm.</b> <b>Wed &amp; Sat 10am - 12pm</b>	<b>Charity Shop</b> Tue, Wed, Thur & Sat 10 – 12.30. Tue & Thur 2 – 4.30	<b>1</b> WI Annual Meeting 7pm Church Rooms	<b>2</b> Link Coffee Morning RBL 10.30am	<b>3</b> Spring Concert Holy Cross 7.30pm
<b>4</b> Boundary Walk (No Village walk)	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Ramsbury Roxy <b>A Real Pain</b> RBL 7.30pm	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Wine tasting Memorial Hall 7pm	<b>10</b> Ramsbury VE Day 80 <sup>th</sup> anniversary Tea Party
<b>11</b> Ramsbury Run	<b>12</b> Flyer outing to <b>Bowood</b>	<b>13</b> Memorial Hall Annual General Meeting 5.30pm	<b>14</b> Lunch Club	<b>15</b> <u>WI coffee morning</u> Flyer outing to <b>Salisbury Cathedral</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> RHS Plant Sale Memorial Hall 10am to 12noon
<b>18</b> Ramsbury Roxy <u>Rumours</u> Bedwyn Concert	<b>19</b> Parish Council Annual Meeting Mem Hall 7.45pm	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Lunch Club	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>
<u>Every Sunday</u> Holy Cross See text for <u>services</u> Methodist Church See text for <u>services</u> Tennis Club 10.am	<u>Every Monday</u>	<u>Every Tuesday</u> 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tue Art Group Church Room 10-1 Bowls Club 5.45 pm at the Bowling Green Flyer to Marlborough	<u>Every Wednesday</u> Flyer to Hungerford	<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 ————— <b>May</b> <b>2025</b>



# Ramsbury and Axford Village Diary

## May 2025



May we have items for the June diary before 17 May.  
Please email to [diary@ramsbury.org](mailto:diary@ramsbury.org)

### **NATURE NOTES** by *Peter Marren*

We deserved this. After one of the wettest autumns, followed by yet another dull grey winter, we have been able to enjoy one of the sunniest, warmest early springs in living memory. At the time of writing (12<sup>th</sup> April) there have been three weeks of almost unbroken sunshine, at the time of year when it really matters. Bushes and trees have sprung into leaf while the great roar of lawnmowers heard at the start has diminished until the grass receives some rain. Blackthorn blossom has produced snowy billows along roadsides and a veritable wall of white on the track at West Lodge, where the year's first white butterflies – green-veined white and orange-tip - were busy. After last year's disastrously wet spring, it is relief to see plenty of butterflies and bees (and bee-flies and beetles) that have made it through regardless – not as many as normal, perhaps, but with at least the makings of a recovery.

The sunny spring has also brought forth primroses, wood anemones and celandines at their very best, and, more recently, more-than-usual numbers of common dog-violet, spurts of bright blue among the yellow and white. No wonder we love the earliest wild flowers, and have given them such beautiful names: primrose, from Latin, *prima rosa*, in effect 'first flower'; celandine from the Greek word for swallow, *chelidon*, in effect 'swallow flower'; and anemone also from the Greek, *anemos*, meaning 'wind' – in effect, 'daughter of the wind'. As for violet, it derives from the Latin *viola* via the Norman French *violete*. It is a colour transferred to a flower. And the name dog violet indicates that this violet has no scent. Or may be a scent that only a dog could pick up. And all this under a sky that deserves another Old French name, one that we in England so seldom need to use: *azure*, the purest of sky-blues.

(Editor's note – Peter has recently published a new book - *Rare Plants*. Available in hardback and kindle).

### **BIRD NOTES** by *Paul Swan*

To echo Peter, the last few weeks have been glorious, and the perfect weather to be out and about. At the time of writing, the swallows are nearby, but I have not yet had a report of them in the village. I am sure that they will have arrived by publication date! May should also see the return of the cuckoos, house martins and possibly swifts.

The Seven Bridges area is particularly full of birds of all sorts at the moment, mostly in pairs. We have seen kingfishers, marsh tits, long tailed tits, chiff chaff, blackcaps, Cetti's warblers, reed buntings, dunnocks and Mandarin ducks. We have also heard the willow warbler, reed warbler, and on a couple of occasions the water rail. A little further along, on the way to Littlecote, we spotted red kites nesting in clear view, and a pair of kestrels always in the same tree, although the nest is not visible. These beautiful raptors often nest in tree cavities and regularly return to the same nest site every year.

Unusual sighting of the month must be when a domestic cat proudly presented its latest catch. It turned out to be an uninjured bird – a snipe! This rarely seen bird is a medium sized wading bird with short legs and a long straight bill. Although they are supposedly quite common in this area, I have only seen one in the last 25 years. This one was quickly released and flew off at some speed.

### **RAINFALL** by *Robert Osmond*

Another record broken. In March we had just 10 mm of rain, the driest here since 1968. March is rarely this dry and the ground is wet following the winter months when rainfall is at its highest, hence the old saying "March dust is worth a guinea a bushel"! The dry spell has continued into April and despite two wet years we now need some rain.

### **Recreation Centre 200 Club Results**

£100 to Janet Hierons, £50 to Colin Diss, Matthew Tester, Penny Willetts, Si Smith and Carolyn Roche and £25 to Clive Adolph, Melissa Evans, Chris Morgan, Ellin Osmond, Graham Curtis and Isla Bissbolissian.

The Recreation Centre 200 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 WI**

Thursday 1 May Annual Meeting 7pm in the Church Rooms. Please attend, to elect your committee and president for the coming year, adopt the Annual Accounts etc. Discussion on this year's NFWI Resolution *Bystanders can be Lifesavers*. All followed by an Indoor Picnic. Competition - Bloom of the Month - please bring a flower in a little vase. Any enquiries to 520908 or 520261.

Thursday 15 May Coffee Morning at Royal British Legion club 10.30am onwards.

### **The Marlborough Singers Spring Concert in Holy Cross**

Saturday 3 May Spring Concert From Mozart to Les Miserables at 7.30 in Holy Cross Church. Tickets on sale at Ramsbury Post Office £10. All proceeds for The Prospect Hospice. They will also be performing in St Marys Church, Great Bedwyn on Sunday 4 May at 7.30. Bar and raffle at both concerts.

### **Aldbourne VE Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations**

3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> May Aldbourne are running a series of events to commemorate the occasion.

### **Ramsbury Parish Boundary Walk**

Sunday 4 May the annual Boundary Walk begins in the Square at 7am and ends at the Royal British Legion at 6pm. Ramsbury Flyer gives lifts to and from the stops - time. Details of the walk and the Flyer timings are on the website [www.ramsbury.org.uk](http://www.ramsbury.org.uk), in the Square and leaflets in the Post Office. Please bring cash. This is a fund raiser for the Scouts and the Royal British Legion who provide bacon butties and cake respectively. Sorry NO DOGS.

### **Whitton Benefice**

#### **Services in Holy Cross, Ramsbury (unless otherwise noted)**

Sunday 4 May: 10am regular Team Holy Communion - this month in St Mary's, Chilton Foliat.

11am Special VE80<sup>th</sup> service at St Michael's, Aldbourne

Sunday 11 May 9:30am Matins (traditional language)

Sunday 18 May 9:30am Holy Communion

Sunday 25 May 8am Holy Communion (traditional language), 9:30am Cafe Church

Thursday morning service of Holy Communion at 10am every Thursday this month in Holy Cross.

If you are looking for something a little different - there is an evening prayer service with Taizé music and hot chocolate in All Saints, Froxfield on Sunday 11 May at 4pm; a Contemporary Praise service at St Nicholas', Baydon on Sunday 25 May at 9:30am; and there is also 'Reflective Spaces' in St Michael's, Aldbourne at 7pm on Wednesday 28 May.

### **Methodist Church Services**

Sunday 4 May 10.30am Service led by Local Preacher.

Sunday 11 May 10.30am Service led by Local Preacher.

Sunday 18 May 10.30am Service led by H/C Service Led by Revd Stephen Skinner.

Service 25 May 10.30am Service led by Forces Chaplain Revd Nihilote Rokotoro.

**Coffee Morning** at the Lychgate Room on Thursdays 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> (not the 15<sup>th</sup>), 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> May at 9.30am.

During April we donated £100 each to local charities including: The Prospect Hospice, The Bruce's Trust, The Ramsbury Surgery equipment fund, The Aldbourne and Ramsbury Methodist Church.

**Lottage Road Art Group** will run Fridays at 2.30pm until 4.30pm in May. Please contact Rev Stephen Skinner for dates on 01672 512457 or by email [Rev.stephen.skinner3@gmail.com](mailto:Rev.stephen.skinner3@gmail.com). For more information.

### **Ramsbury Roxy**

Tuesday 6 May **A Real Pain** Ramsbury Royal British Legion 7 for 7.30pm start. Tickets £6. Mismatched cousins David (Jesse Eisenberg) and Benji (Oscar winning Kieran Culkin) reunite for a tour through Poland to honour their beloved grandmother. Written, directed and starring Jesse Eisenberg.

Sunday 18 May **Rumours** Ramsbury Royal British Legion at 7.30pm Tickets £6. Rumours follows the seven leaders of the world's wealthiest democracies at the G7 summit, where they attempt to draft a statement regarding a global crisis. The cast includes Cate Blanchett, Alicia Vikander and Charles Dance.

For more information and to book tickets visit <https://www.ramsburyroxy.org> or Ramsbury Post Office.

### ***Ramsbury Post Office and Oxford Wine Company Wine Tasting Evening***

Friday 9 May Ramsbury Memorial Hall at 7pm. Tasting 6+ wines selected for sale through the Post Office. Tickets £20 available from the Post Office or ramsburyoxy.org includes cheese and charcuterie

### ***Ramsbury 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Victory in Europe Celebration Tea Party***

Saturday 10 May 2 to 6pm at Ramsbury Memorial Hall. Live music, Tombola & Games, Licensed Bar & Hot Food, Treasure Hunt, Cream Teas, Cakes, Face Painting. In aid of Help4Heroes and Murphy's Army.

Further information at [www.ramsburydday80.com](http://www.ramsburydday80.com)

### ***Ramsbury Flyer Outings***

Monday 12 May to Bowood to see the Woodland Garden, bluebells, azaleas, magnolias & rhododendrons. Thursday 15 May an afternoon visit to Salisbury Cathedral for the Flower Festival with spectacular displays.

Monday 9 June Milletts Farm Centre, Monday 23 June Mottisfont, Monday 30 June Adam's Farm

Monday 7 July the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford.

Please ring Janet for more information and to book! 01672 520682 or 07584 253117

### ***Ramsbury Memorial Hall AGM***

Tuesday 13 May Annual General Meeting 5.30pm in the Main Hall. Anyone is welcome to attend this public meeting. The hall celebrates its centenary in 2026 and the trustees would welcome ideas for suitable ways to mark this milestone and also ideas for fundraising. Enquiries to 07764 693623.

### ***Lunch Club***

Lunch Club on Wednesdays 14 & 28 May in the Church Rooms, Back Lane. Enquires to Diana on 520630.

### ***Ramsbury Horticultural Society Plant Sale***

Saturday 17 May RHS Plant Sale. Memorial Hall 10am to 12 noon. Please drop off plants at the Memorial Hall (car park side) on Friday 16 May after 5pm or email [hortsoc@ramsbury.org](mailto:hortsoc@ramsbury.org) by Wednesday 14 May to arrange collection. Tea/coffee and cakes will be provided by Axford Village Hall volunteers.

### ***Bedwyn Music Society in St Mary's Church, Great Bedwyn***

Sunday 18 May 5.30 pm, PAVLOS CARVALHO, cello, with LOUISA LAM, piano. Bach, Beethoven, Brahms, Tchaikovsky, Piazzolla. Tickets £15 at the door. Reserved seats £20, contact Merial Larken 07825 380 884.

### ***Parish Council***

Monday 19 May Annual meeting followed by Council meeting at 7.45pm in the Memorial Hall. Residents can hear a review of the PC activities in the last year.

13 Councillors put in nomination papers for the election on May 1<sup>st</sup>. All are elected unopposed.

We plan to spend a good deal of money on village amenities - new SIDs and play equipment installed.

If you are aware of potholes, streetlights out etc please report on *Mywilts* at [www.wiltshire.gov.uk](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk).

### ***Ramsbury Community Charity Shop in the Memorial Hall car park***

We now have Paul New's wonderful plants in stock. Going on holiday? Take 3 paperbacks for £1, children's books 3 for £1 also lots of jigsaws, wetsuits and lots more. Sheila Glass and Mary Holdsworth

### ***Allotments***

The season is getting underway after a cold dry start. There are a few plots still available £60 a year for a full plot, £35 half a plot or £10 for a taster raised bed. Please contact Denise Edwards on 07867 921878.

### ***LINK***

Link gives lifts to medical appointments, shopping, hairdresser etc. Ring Penny on 520111 for details. Service is free, small donations welcome but not essential. Free coffee morning in the British Legion at 10.30am for clients and drivers on the first Friday of the month. If you need a lift ring Penny as above.

We have wonderful drivers without whom the service would not work but we always need more. We pay 45p a mile and light refreshments on a long run. If you could help us contact Penny on 520111.

### ***THANK YOU***

The Ravensbury Players would like to thank all those came to see *Allo Allo 2 The Camembert Caper*. We hope you enjoyed it and look forward to seeing you again for our next production - planning has started for November already so watch out for details in the coming months!

***Edited by John Herbertson***

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