

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Cake & Co Methodist Chapel Hall Aldbourne 10.30-12noon	2 Art Group Church Room 10-1pm	3	4 WI Meeting Church Rooms 2.30pm	5 RWG – Beaver talk Mem Hall 7.30pm. LINK coffee morning RBL 10.30am	6 Xmas Charity shop 10am. RBL Xmas Fair Mem Hall 11-3pm. Bella Voce Holy Cross 7 for 7.30pm start
7 See church text. Roxy – the Salt Path. Xmas Walk Square 2-4pm	8 Flyer Bath Xmas Market. R&A Bowls Club Bingo Mem Hall 7pm	9	10 Lunch Club - Xmas Lunch Church Rooms 11.45 -2pm	11	12	13
14 See text for church services Carols by candlelight HC 5pm	15 Carols around the tree with Ramsbury Silver Band 7pm. Parish Council Meeting Mem Hall 8pm	16 Art Group Church Room 10-1pm	17	18 WI Xmas Lunch venue tba	19	20
21 See text for church services	22	23	24 Christingle Holy Cross 4pm	25 Happy Christmas to all our readers 	26 Boxing Day	27
28 See text for church Services	29	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
<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 2-4pm	<u>Every Tuesday</u> Flyer to Marlborough	<u>Every Wednesday</u> Flyer to Hungerford Yoga Mem Hall 6.46 8pm	<u>Every Thursday</u> Phoenix Pizza Memorial Hall 4.45-8pm. Last visit will be 11 th Dec, returning mid Feb	<u>Every Friday</u> Yoga Mem Hall 9-10.15 Flyer to Hungerford Ramsbury Silver Band Axford Village Hall 7.30- 9.30pm.	<u>Every Saturday</u> Junior Football 10.00am <hr/> December 2025



Ramsbury and Axford Village Diary

December 2025



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 colours have been particularly intense this year. Passing though Savernake on the way to Marlborough the effect on the trees in full sun was like sunlight streaming through stained glass, all vivid yellows, golds, copper-browns, and even red and purple tints, as well as the leaves that still remained green. Why are some years better than others? I suspect that our sunny, warm summer had something to do with it, but only something. The process of how deciduous trees prepare for the winter by shedding their leaves is quite complex. Trees react mainly to falling daylength, which is why the process begins at roughly the same time each year. This year the process has been prolonged by mild temperatures and the lack of strong winds. But what of the colours? Before leaf-fall, the tree withdraws the more nutritious bits, notably the green chlorophyll, the pigment that does most of the photosynthesis and so effectively feeds the tree. What is left are the hidden yellow colours which are carotenoids, the same pigments that are found in carrots and pumpkins. Some trees, like birch and field maple, simply go yellow. But another group of pigments are produced by trees like beech and oak, which provide the rich brown and reddish colours of their autumn leaves. These are anthocyanins and are produced towards the end of the season. Unlike carotenoids, they do not produce food by photosynthesis, so what is their biological purpose? One theory is that the red colours are insect repellents. Insects like aphids cannot see red, and so for them the leaves look dark, in other words dead, and so not useful as food. Finally, the leaves of some trees, like ash, stay green until they fall. Why? Maybe because ash grows on rich soils rich in minerals. It doesn't need to withdraw its chlorophyll because it has enough nutrients already. As for Christmas holly, it may be evergreen, but it nonetheless sheds its oldest leaves. But it does so in the spring without changing colour, and so no one notices! There's space only to mention fungi, which have had a good year, perhaps because the trees produced so much sugar this year that they have it to spare, at least to fungi growing on their roots. Honey fungus has been particularly prolific, and I was interested to see that it is a key ingredient of dried fungi sold in supermarkets. Does it taste of honey? I didn't go that far!

Bird Notes by *Paul Swan*

Autumn is now firmly with us, as are our regular autumn visitors. Modest flocks of redwing can now be seen and heard on the lower slopes of Spring Hill, while higher up the first of the golden plover have made their way down from the North Yorkshire Moors to winter with us. We were very privileged this month to join a group of bird ringers for an early morning to the west of the village. In just a few hours, they had caught and ringed over twenty-four different species – far more than any of us would see on an average walk. Seeing the birds up so close and seeing individual feathers in detail was quite magical. By the end of the session, we were allowed to hold and release the birds. The smallest birds caught were the beautiful goldcrests and the largest was a feisty green woodpecker. If you ever get the chance to have the same experience, you should jump at it! In the garden, our small pond had its first ever visit by a female grey wagtail that explored the whole area and spent many minutes stepping delicately from lily pad to lily pad. A lovely sighting. Fingers crossed that we don't have a really cold snap in the next few weeks. If we do, a lot of our 'regulars' will head West.

Rainfall by *Robert Osmond*

Finally a wetter month with 69.60mm of rain, but still well below the October average of 91.79mm. So far this year, up to the end of October, we have had 532mm, so we need two very wet months to bring us up to the yearly average of 861mm. November is trying to catch up, the 9th was the wettest day since the 26th January!

Recreation Centre 200 Club

Here are the 200 Club results for November: - £100 to Alex Scott, £50 to each of John Barker, Michelle Kirkland, Chris Martin, Stuart Millar and Justine Evill and £25 to each of Alison Seaton, Barry Stephens, Alison Foale, Bart Quintin-Smith, Mike Allman and Bev Mann. Thank you to everyone for your support this year! It is very much appreciated.

Holy Cross and the Whitton Parish

This Christmas season, join us for Carols, Christingles and Christmas worship around the Parish.

May we all experience the Joy, Peace and Goodwill to all, that the angels proclaimed at Jesus' birth in Bethlehem. Also, the Bella Voce Christmas concert will be in Holy Cross church on Saturday 6th December and the choir will join us for our Carol by Candlelight service on 14th.

Services in Holy Cross Ramsbury (unless otherwise noted).

Sunday 7th December 10:00am Team Holy Communion (Baydon), 4:00pm Axford Carol Service

Sunday 14th December 5:00pm Carols by Candlelight

Sunday 21st December 9:30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 24th December (Christmas Eve) 4:00pm Christingle Service, 11:00pm Communion for Christmas Night

Thursday 25th December (Christmas Day) 9:30am Christmas All-age Communion

Sunday 28th December 8:00am Holy Communion (traditional language), 10:00am Team Holy Communion

Thursdays at 10:00am on 4th, 11th, 18th December: Holy Communion

(please note there will NOT be a Reflective Spaces service in Aldbourne this month).

Aldbourn Methodist Church Service

Sunday 7th December 10.30am service led by Revd Andrew Bird.

Sunday 14th December 10.30am service led by Revd Dr Marcus Torchon.

Sunday 21st December 10.30am H/C service led by Revd Stephen Skinner.

Christmas Day 9.00am Service led by Revd Stephen Skinner.

Sunday 28th December 10.30am service led by Revd Stephen Skinner.

Bible course 2.30pm -4pm every Tuesday at Methodist Chaple. Led by Revd Stephen Skinner. Art group

2.30pm -Friday 12th Dec 2.30pm - 4.30pm in the Methodist Hall led by Revd Stephen Skinner. Midwinter Carol

Service Thursday December 18th at 7pm in the Aldbourne Methodist Chaple. Carols on the Green in

Aldbourn at 6.30pm on 19th December with the Aldbourne band. Join us for Carol singing round the tree at

7pm with the Ramsbury Silver Band.

Coffee morning at the Lychgate Room will be held on Thursday 4th and 11th December at 9.30am, come and join us for Coffee. We will hold a Christmas gift swap, please buy a small gift, for the last coffee morning. We resume on Thursday January 15th at the Lychgate Room, all are welcome to join us.

Ramsbury WI

4 December Monthly meeting 2.30pm Church Rooms Back Lane. Craft afternoon: opportunity to make a simple cracker and a small Ferrero Rocher garland. Materials supplied but please bring scissors if possible plus a small novelty to go inside cracker. Enquiries to 520908 or 520261. 18 December Christmas Lunch (no coffee morning this month). Details TBA.

Ramsbury & Axford Golf Society

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

Bella Voce Choir

Bella voce presents a concert featuring the Armed Man Mass for Peace, plus Festive Favourites. Saturday 6th December, Holy Cross Church Ramsbury. Adults £10 Children Free. Tickets available from Ramsbury Post Office. Doors open 7pm Concert starts at 7.30pm. there will be a Raffle and a Donation Bar.

Ramsbury Wildlife Group

RWG are holding a British beaver talk on Friday December 5th in the Memorial Hall at 7.30pm by beaver experts Robert Needham and James Wallace.

Ramsbury Roxy

Sunday 7th December: The Salt Walk.

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

Lunch Club

Ramsbury Lunch Club will be holding its Christmas meal on Wednesday 10th December at 11.45am.

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.

Flyer Outings - available to all local villages

Marlborough: On Tuesday 2nd and 16th, leaving Ramsbury at 9.45am passing through Aldbourne, Axford and Minal to Marlborough. Return service at 12 noon. Bus passes can be used. On Tuesday 9th and 23rd, from Ramsbury at 9.45am through Chilton Foliat and Froxfield, to Marlborough. Return at 12 noon. Bus passes can be used.

Newbury: Thursday 11th December, leaving Ramsbury Square at 11.30am. Further pick up points can take place. Returning at 2.30pm. Fare £5, seats must be booked with Janet. Bus passes cannot be used.

Wednesdays & Fridays, collecting at Ramsbury stops from 10.00am, then Chilton Foliat to Hungerford at 10.30am. Followed by collection at Froxfield at 10.40 am and direct to Hungerford. Return to Ramsbury from Tesco at 11.55am and to Froxfield at 12.45pm. Bus passes may be used. Full details on posters, handouts and on the website.

Trips: Monday 8th December, a trip to Bath Christmas market back by popular demand! There will be chocolates on the bus. In January, look forward to lunch with Carena and Vanessa tba. Surgery transport is available on Tuesday pm and Thursday am. Book via the Receptionist at the Surgery.

Ramsbury Community Charity Shop

The Christmas Shop will open on Saturday 6th December at 10am. We have Christmas decorations, toys, games, gifts, stocking fillers, books, large platters etc, all at bargain prices. If you are clearing decorations or toys before Christmas please think of us - we can recycle them and all the money stays in the village. After overheads - rent, refuse bin, insurance - all the money collected goes to Scouts, Bowls Club, Church, Lunch Club, Recreation Centre, WI, Royal British Legion and Ravensbury Players. Thanks to our wonderful volunteers there are no staff costs.

Sheila Glass Mary Holdsworth

Parish Council

The new equipment at Whittonditch play area is in place - we hope it will be enjoyed. There are also new speed indicators in Ramsbury and Axford. The three apple trees planted on our land near the surgery have done well and more will be planted this winter. Helen Lloyd and Sheila Glass planted almost 700 bluebell and snowdrop bulbs in the hedgerow and the orchard. These were donated by North Wessex Downs Landscape Trust. Snowdrops will also be planted in the Memorial Garden. We look forward to a display in the spring. The phone boxes in Ramsbury have been refurbished and we are looking at the possibility of putting a defibrillator in the one in Whittonditch Road. The WI have agreed to keep displays in the one on the High Street.

We'd like to thank everyone involved including Bob Foale, the Rev Deb Larkey and Ramsbury Royal British Legion for the excellent organisation and refreshments at the Remembrance service and after. Scouts and Beavers and children from Ramsbury School took part as well as representatives of the armed services. Around 250 residents assembled in the Square and at the Memorial to remember the fallen in two World Wars and subsequent conflicts. Thanks also to Fiona Mair who swept copious quantities of leaves and acorns from the Square and Mary Holdsworth and Sheila Glass for the poppy display.

As winter approaches could you please be vigilant for potential flooding. Please clear leaves and debris from drain tops. This makes a great difference to water clearance during heavy rain and please report blocked drains to parishcouncil@ramsbury.org The Parish Council has reusable aquasacs, 3 for £10, which swell to form "sandbags" if you think your property is in danger of flooding. Lofts Bridge on the 7 Bridges walk is still out of action - Wiltshire Council are having problems with Environment Agency giving a licence to work on the river. It is hoped that work to replace it will begin in January. Christmas trees will go up in the first week of December. We are grateful as ever for the help from Ramsbury Estates and Ramsbury Electrical in putting up the trees and lights which contribute immensely to the festive atmosphere in the village. Finally, please remember the shops in Ramsbury for Christmas shopping. We need the shops and if you don't use them we may lose them.

Edited by Karen Rees

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Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our readers!