

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Charity Shop</b> Tue, Wed, Thur & Sat 10 – 12.30 Tue & Thur 2 – 4.30	<b>Link Scheme</b> Mon – Fri 9 -5 Tel 520111	<b>1</b> Art Group Church Room 10-1pm <hr/> Roxy RBL 7pm	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> WI Meeting Church Rooms 7.30pm	<b>4</b> Ramsbury Talk: Robert Hardman on King Charles III Mem Hall 7.15pm	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> See text for church services <hr/> Village Walk The Square 2.30pm	<b>7</b> Cake & Co Methodist Chapel Hall Aldbourne 10.30-12noon	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Lunch Club Church Rooms 12—2pm	<b>10</b> Flyer to Newbury Sq 11.30am	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Hort Soc Autumn Show Mem Hall 2-4pm <hr/> WI Country Market Mem Hall 2-4pm
<b>13</b> See text for church services	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Art Group Church Room 10-1pm	<b>16</b> Police visit RBL 11-12 noon	<b>17</b> WI Coffee Morning RBL 10.30am onwards	<b>18</b> Roxy NTL @ Mem Hall 7pm	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> See text for church services	<b>21</b> Parish Council Meeting Mem Hall 7.45pm	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Lunch Club Church Rooms 12-2pm	<b>24</b> Ramsbury Wildlife Group Talk on the River Kennet Mem Hall 7.30pm	<b>25</b> Talk: Lost in the Woods by Paul Swan Mem Hall 7.30pm	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> See text for church Services	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <b>Library – Free Internet</b>            Mon 2–4 Wed 10–12,            Sat 10–12 noon         </div>	
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 <b>Marlborough</b> 9.45am	<u>Every Wednesday</u> Flyer to <b>Hungerford</b> 10am	<u>Every Thursday</u> Phoenix Pizza Memorial Hall 4.45-8pm	<u>Every Friday</u> Ramsbury Silver Band Axford Village Hall 7.30- 9.30pm <hr/> Flyer to <b>Hungerford</b> 10am	<u>Every Saturday</u> Junior Football 10.00am <hr/> <div style="text-align: center;"> <b>October 2024</b> </div>



# Ramsbury and Axford Village Diary October 2024



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

Please email to [diary@ramsbury.org](mailto:diary@ramsbury.org)

**Sustainable option - read me @ [www.ramsbury.org.uk](http://www.ramsbury.org.uk) – Parish Mags - Diary**

## **Nature Notes** by *Peter Marren*

The series of warm, dry Septembers we have enjoyed lately ended this year with thunderous deluges lasting for days. If autumn has come early this year, with blackberries almost over by September, and fully ripe sloes in the hedgerows, there are still a few late wild flowers. On Spring Hill patches of bright blue reveal the Devil's-bit Scabious, which has little pom-pom heads, known locally as 'blue bobs'. The name refers to its root, which is squared off at the end as though something has nipped it. According to the herbals of yesteryear, Devil's-bit could cure fever, poison, freckles, dandruff, swellings, worms, and the plague, as well as the bites of serpents. A useful plant then, though today we know it best as the foodplant of the Marsh Fritillary butterfly.

In Hen's Wood we found another late flower called Naked Ladies, otherwise known as Meadow Saffron. It is a Colchicum, bright pink and resembling a crocus, but flowering without any leaves, hence 'naked'. The leaves appear separately in the spring. Meadow Saffron is, unfortunately, a misleading name nowadays for the plant is poisonous to cattle and has been evicted from most meadows. You probably wouldn't want to eat its saffron (the plant's orange stamens) either!

It has been a rotten year for butterflies, but in August and September at least one species had a late burst: the humble Small White. Some of them might have been migrants, even though it is hard to imagine this little fluttering butterfly crossing the high seas. Their progeny will emerge as butterflies in the spring, but for some unknown reason the spring brood is always much smaller than the summer one. In fact, I can't recall seeing a single Small White last spring!

There have been some unusual cover-crops in the fields around the village this year, but one of the oddest is canary grass, whose bobble heads make a subdued but lovely clacking noise in the wind. In my cycle ride around the parish there sometimes seem to be more cover crops than actual crops! But they are certainly an opportunity for the small and harmless 'weeds' to flourish around the edges, and they in turn are food for partridges, buntings, and finches.

## **Bird Notes** by *Paul Swan*

Meteorological summer has now ended, and the morning autumn mists are already starting. The departure of the swallows and house martins means that we won't have to wait long for the arrival of our autumn visitors. These will include the fieldfares and redwings, and our very own golden plover. Presumably, the plovers will establish themselves on Spring Hill as they have done for at least twenty years and become a lovely aerial addition to winter walks on the hill.

Many of our resident birds like chaffinches, blackbirds, thrushes and robins will be joined by their cousins from Europe, but it will be virtually impossible to tell which is which. All will be busy feasting on what appears to be a bumper crop of berries this year, and many birds have very specific tastes. The arriving redwings and fieldfares will go for holly and rosehips. Mistle thrushes prefer sloes, while robins go for elder and ivy. Blackbirds however will go for almost any berries that are available. Another special sign of autumn to listen out for is the haunting call of the tawny owl – preferably over the churchyard on a late misty evening!

There are reports of small flocks of Siskins visiting garden feeders during the wet weather in early September. They are more usual in the early spring, but it may be that wet weather has made it difficult for them to forage for seed, and they are turning to feeders instead.

## **Rainfall** by *Robert Osmond*

August had 49.5mm, well below the average of 71mm. A dry first half of the month with only 14mm, which continued until the 23<sup>rd</sup> when we had 24mm in one day. Looking across the valley in the morning can give a good indication of how the weather will be for the day. As the old saying goes "mist on the hills brings rain to the mills, mist on the moors brings sunshine to the doors"!

## Recreation Centre 200 Club

Here are the 200 Club results for September: - £100 to Mark Hayley, £50 to each of Kim Roberts, Steve Sherman, Susan Suchopar, Bev Mann and Dick Roberts and £25 to each of Martin Vigers, Rosie Derrick, Barry Hierons, Caroline Farrell, Peter Cheney and Chris Snelling.

## Holy Cross and the Whitton Parish

6<sup>th</sup> October 11:00am Team Holy Communion at Ramsbury (with Baptism)

13<sup>th</sup> October 8:00am Holy Communion (BCP) 9:30am Matins (BCP) and Baptism

11:30am Zoom Informal Worship

20<sup>th</sup> October 9:30am Church Café 11:30am Zoom Informal Worship

27<sup>th</sup> October 9:30am Holy Communion 11:30am Zoom Informal Worship

For Zoom services: 0203 481 5240 or 0208 080 6591 ZOOM Meeting ID: 948 3407 2630 Passcode: 343860

There is a short Holy Communion service every Thursday morning at 10am.

"Walk in the Light" - Look out for our Hallowe'en celebration of "All Souls" on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup>. A torchlight quiz hunt through Holy Cross churchyard - register at the Church Rooms for your map! We start at 5pm and aim to finish by 7pm. Our "All Souls" service will be celebrated on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November in the afternoon.

Our contemplative service, "Reflective Spaces" at St Michael's Aldbourne, is on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm.

## Aldbourn Methodist Church Service

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October 10.30am Service led by a local Preacher.

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October 10.30am Homeless Sunday Service led by Revd. Mark Barrett.

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> October 10.30am H/C Service led by Revd. Stephen Skinner.

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> October 10.30am Bible Sunday Service led by Revd Geoffrey Floyd.

All are welcome to join us at our weekly services in Aldbourne.

Lottage Road Art Group run by Revd. Stephen Skinner will take place on 11<sup>th</sup> Oct, 15<sup>th</sup> Nov and 6<sup>th</sup> Dec 2.30 - 4.30pm and costs £3.00 per session. Contact [Rev.stephen.skinner3@gmail.com](mailto:Rev.stephen.skinner3@gmail.com) or 512457.

Coffee mornings are held every Thursday in the Lychgate Room, from 9.30am onwards.

## Ramsbury WI

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October monthly meeting at 7.30pm in the Church Rooms. This is being organised by the members, and we have been promised a fun and sociable evening. Visitors are welcome to join us. Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October WI Country Market (held in conjunction with the Horticultural Society Autumn Show) 2pm to 4pm in Ramsbury Memorial Hall. All sorts of homemade cakes, jam and chutney for sale, plus a raffle for a hamper. Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October Coffee Morning in the Royal British Legion, 10.30 onwards.

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## Ramsbury and Axford Poppy Appeal 2024

The British Legion Poppy Appeal will take place between Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October and Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November this year. Static collection boxes (with various Remembrance merchandise) will once again be available around the Village key points - 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, around Eastridge and Axford.

Your support, as always, remains as important as ever for the Royal British Legion's work. The 2023 Ramsbury and Axford Poppy Appeal raised over £2,100 towards this extremely worthy cause. Every penny donated is appreciated. On Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November there will also be a Ramsbury village parade, Remembrance Service and refreshments in the Royal British Legion club afterwards. Full details to follow.

## Ramsbury & Axford Golf Society

Final event for 2024 the PBA Trophy at Tidworth Golf Club on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October. Further details from John Harrod on [johnharrod238@gmail.com](mailto:johnharrod238@gmail.com) or 07342 233992.

## Ramsbury Roxy

Tuesday October 1<sup>st</sup>, Ordinary Angels showing at Ramsbury Royal British Legion.

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October, National Theatre Live Prima Facie with Jodie Comer.

On Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November, Madama Butterfly from the Royal Opera House.

Tickets £6 and £12 available from [www.ramsburyroxy.org](http://www.ramsburyroxy.org) or from Ramsbury Post Office.

## Lunch Club

Our Lunch Club dates for October are Wednesdays 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> October. Our club is urgently looking for a new treasurer. If you can help with this task, please contact Diana Tricky on 520630.

## **Lost in the Woods.**

Paul Swan, Ramsbury's very talented designer- maker working in wood, will be giving a talk in Ramsbury Memorial Hall on Friday 25th October at 7.30 pm. Tickets are £10 and include a welcome drink and canapes. They are available from Ramsbury Post office or email at [sarah@ateghana.org](mailto:sarah@ateghana.org) All proceeds to Action through Enterprise and its wonderful work in Ghana.

## **LINK**

Contact Penny on 520111 for details of help for lifts to medical appointments, shopping, hairdresser etc. This is a free service but small donations are welcome. We always need drivers if you could help call Penny for details.

## **Message of thanks from Margaret Mitson**

Margaret Mitson and her family would like to thank everyone who attended Rolf's funeral service, it was a tribute to Rolf to see so many in the congregation. Many thanks also for all the wonderful cards, it's such a great comfort to me. I must also thank everyone who helped in the Church rooms, how wonderful it is to be a part of such a caring community.

## **Ramsbury Flyer Community Bus and Trips**

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

### **Flyer Trips**

Monday 14 October Lunch with Vanessa and Carena at the Brewers Arms in Wanborough : Fare £3.

Monday 21 October Trip to Cirencester and/or Dobbies in Cirencester leaving 10.30 am: Fare £10.

Thursday 7 Nov Spectacle of Light Welford Park 6pm at Welford: special reduced entry price £18.75 Fare £5. Nighttime wonder of this beautiful illuminated trail through majestic woodlands, with hot chocolate, spiced cider, various foods.

Saturday 16 November Slimbridge Wetland Centre details tbc.

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**

Plot enquiries to Denise Edwards on 07867 921878/ [allotments@ramsbury.org](mailto:allotments@ramsbury.org)

## **Ramsbury Community Charity Shop**

In September we held a successful half-price sale to celebrate our 15<sup>th</sup> birthday. The pay out for the last quarter is £500 to each organisation. As well as the people who man the shop we'd like to mention Ellin Osmond and Lawrence Park who work behind the scenes. Ellin keeps the accounts in immaculate order and Lawrence sells CDs and DVDs for us. Thanks also to all the other helpers-without you we cannot function.

## **Parish Council**

In September several stretches of pavement were refurbished in Whittonditch Road and the High Street at a cost of just over £40,000. Gutters and drains in the village have been cleared in preparation for what could be a wetter than usual winter. Residents can help by clearing debris from drain covers and clearing gutters to allow free passage of water. Watch for details of help the PC can give if you have problems.

In August a red sofa was left on Whittonditch Road (technically fly tipping which attracts a fixed penalty notice). This was moved by persons unknown onto Whittonditch play area. The sofa was vandalised with graffiti and was removed at the expense of the Parish Council (our money is your money) so at your expense. Swings were also looped up rendering them unusable by the children for whom they are provided, picnic tables were overturned. There have been cans, vapes and other detritus left on the site. We are contemplating some expensive new equipment for play areas, and this antisocial behaviour could have repercussions for children who use the play area during the day because if damage and vandalism continues we are unwilling to risk having the equipment damaged. If you are aware of anyone who could be responsible for this please either speak to them or contact the Parish Council.

Our Police Community Support Officer Melissa Camilleri will be in the café at the British Legion on Wednesday October 16<sup>th</sup> 11am -12 noon if you wish to speak to her.

## **Advance Notices**

18th, 22nd, 25th & 29th November Ramsbury Talk: John Benson revisits Ramsbury Manor

*Edited by Karen Rees*

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