

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Ramsbury & Axford Link Scheme Mon-Fri 9 – 5 Tel 520111	1	2	3 WI outing to Yew Tree Garden Centre	4 Lottage Road (Aldbourn) Art Group	5
6 Village Walk The Square 2pm	7	8	9 Lunch Club	10 Flyer to Newbury Departs The Square 11.30am	11	12
13 “Hymns and Pimm's" service at Froxfield	14	15	16	17 WI Coffee Morning RBL Club 10.30am	18 Bedwyn Music Society Art Group	19
20	21	22	23 Lunch Club AGM and Lunch	24 Flyer Outing to Devizes Departs 11.30am	25	26
27 Café Church Service Holy Cross 9.30am	28	29 (No Flyer service to Marlborough)	30	31	Ramsbury Library Mon & Thur 2 - 4pm. Wed & Sat 10am - 12pm	Charity Shop Tue, Wed, Thur & Sat 10 – 12.30. Tue & Thur 2 – 4.30
<u>Every Sunday</u> Holy Cross See text for services Methodist Church See text for services Tennis Club 10.am	<u>Every Monday</u>	<u>Every Tuesday</u> 1 st & 3 rd 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 July 2025



Ramsbury and Axford Village Diary

July 2025



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

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

NATURE NOTES *by Peter Marren*

By the beginning of June, the wonderful hawthorn blossom, and the foam of cow parsley that lines our lanes, were over. In their place came a notable blossoming of elderflower, privet and honeysuckle, the last two lending their sweet scents to the summer air, especially on warm, windless evenings. In my neighbour's garden, a stump which has been topped by ivy for the past decade is now a mass of honeysuckle, a scented froth of pink and yellow. Honeysuckle climbs in a spiral, thus producing the wood for those elegant twisty walking sticks. Two beautiful insects depend on honeysuckle. The flowers are visited by elephant hawkmoths, whose long tongues can reach the nectar embedded deep inside the flower. And the leaves are the sole foodplant of the white admiral butterfly; though probably not in your garden for it's a forest insect.

Meanwhile, cow parsley has been replaced on the verges by hogweed and ground-elder, massed umbel-heads in the same family as carrots and parsnips (indeed we have the wild ancestors of carrots and parsnips in the parish). Ground-elder was introduced long ago for pottage. When young and tender, the leaves taste much like spinach. A notorious garden weed (because it's almost impossible to get rid of), ground-elder is now among the commonest flowers of grass verges in midsummer. Both it and hogweed attract many insects, not so much in search of nectar as pollen. To a beetle or a hoverfly, their sour scents spell not sugar but protein, the building block of life. Beetles scrunch up the pollen grains with their powerful jaws. With their Hoover-like mouthparts, the flies suck it up.

Have butterflies recovered from last year's disastrously wet spring? My impression is that some have, but others haven't. Orange-tips, and now marbled whites and meadow browns, are out in their usual numbers, but whites, common blues, and commas are not. And for the first time I didn't see a single grizzled or dingy skipper on Spring Hill. Hopefully, they were keeping their heads down and will return.

BIRD NOTES *by Paul Swan*

The last few weeks have been relatively dry, and one result of this is the lack of mud! We were reminded of this on a walk to Littlecote when we saw a large group of house martins gathering mud near the river, presumably for nest repairs.

Nesting has certainly been the focus for most birds, with many youngsters now fledged, while others need nonstop feeding. In our garden the tiny wren can now relax having successfully raised three chicks. Later in the process are the red kites. We have been watching two nests, and the adults are now clearly engaged in providing for hungry youngsters. This need for food often brings the kites into conflict with crows. It is now a common sight to see one or more crows attacking a red kite. This is usually to keep the larger birds away from nesting sites, but also because they compete for the same food. Sometimes hungry birds are driven to unusual behaviour. My favourite report of the month is of a red kite swooping down into a large garden and stealing a sausage from the barbecue! I would love to have witnessed that.

The swifts continue to enrich our warm evenings with their aerobatic screaming displays before they return to their nests in the Square with crops full of tiny insects. It will not be long before the youngsters are joining in.

RAINFALL by Robert Osmond

May was another dry month with 33 mm of rain, about half the monthly average. This followed two very dry months, and the total rainfall for March, April and May was only 57 mm, well below the average of 183 mm for the same period. It is rare to have three months in a row with so little rain, but strangely it was in 2011 that the same three months had only 58 mm.

Old advice for getting rid of thistles. "Cut a thistle in June, it'll come again soon, cut a thistle in July it'll be sure to die" !

Recreation Centre 200 Club Results

£100 to Tennis Xperience, £50 to each of Judith Francis, Ian Annand, Michelle Kirkland, Simon Smith and Marilyn Roberts and £25 to each of Mike Franklin, Pat Pope, Graham Cherrington, Mark Palmer, Colin Diss and Dennis White.

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

Ramsbury Flyer

Marlborough on Tuesdays 1 and 15 July leaving Ramsbury at 9.45am via Aldbourne, Axford and Minal to Marlborough arriving at 10.20. This service leaves to come home at 12 noon. Bus passes can be used.

On Tuesdays 8 and 22 July from Ramsbury at 9.45am via Chilton Foliat and Froxfield to Marlborough, arriving at 10.20. This service also leaves at 12 noon to come home. Bus passes can be used,

No Marlborough service on 29 July.

Newbury Thursday 10 July leaving Ramsbury Square at 11.30 am. Further pick up points can take place.

Returning from Newbury at 2.30pm. Fare £5 seats must be booked with Janet. Bus passes cannot be used.

Hungerford Wednesdays collecting at Ramsbury stops from 10am via Chilton Foliat, Froxfield, Cobbs to Hungerford. Dobbies garden centre by request. Bus passes may be used.

Fridays - passengers from Aldbourne must book their seats with Janet (see below) & will be collected at 9.45. The bus will then go to Ramsbury and usual route from 10am to Hungerford. Bus passes may be used.

Forthcoming Flyer trips -

Thursday 24 July **Devizes** for market day and perhaps some lunch !! Leave 11.30 am : £8 fare. Monday 11

August: **Goring-on-Thames**: a picturesque riverside setting, with charming shops: perfect for a day out!!

£15 fare, leaving at 10am. 4 September: **Flyer lunch** : details to follow. 18 September: **Aston Pottery** for

the flowers, plus lovely shop and very nice cafe: £12 fare: leave 11.30 am 9 October: **Cotswold Woollen**

Weavers shop and cafe, Filkins. 20 October: **Studley Grange Garden Centre**. 3 November: **Westonbirt** for

the autumn colours. Please call Janet on 01672 520682 or 07584 253117 to book

Ramsbury WI

Thursday 3 July members' outing to Yew Tree Garden Centre in place of monthly meeting. Transport arrangements will be circulated in the last week in June - please ring Rosalie on 520261 if any queries.

Thursday 17 July Coffee Morning at Royal British Legion Club 10.30am onwards.

Lottage Road (Aldbourne) Art Group

Fridays 4 & 18 July at 2.30-4.30pm in Aldbourne Methodist Hall on the theme of Boats at sea.

Holy Cross – (See Whitton Ways for full details of services in the Whitton Benefice)

Sunday 6 July Team Holy Communion Aldbourne 10am

Sunday 13 July BCP Matins (traditional language) Holy Cross 9.30am

Sunday 20 July Holy Communion Holy Cross 9.30am

Sunday 27 July Café Church Holy Cross 9.30am

Our celebration of summer continues, with a "Hymns and Pimm's" service at Froxfield on Sunday 13 July at 4pm.

If you are looking for something a little different - there is a Contemporary Praise service at St Nicholas', Baydon or our own Cafe Church service on Sunday 27 July at 9:30am; there is also 'Reflective Spaces' in St Michael's, Aldbourne at 7pm on Wednesday 23 July.

There is our regular Thursday morning service of Holy Communion at 10am every Thursday this month in Holy Cross.

Aldbourne Methodist Church

Sunday 6 July 10.30am service led by Local Preacher.

Sunday 6 July **Singles Lunch** at 12.30pm in the Methodist Hall tickets £6. Please call Rona on 07925377174 or Sandra on 07881235131 if you like to come.

Sunday 13 July 10.30am Local Arrangement Service.

Sunday 20 July 10.30am Service led by Revd Stephen Skinner.

Sunday 27 July 10.30am service led by Local Preacher.

Coffee morning in the garden at 6 Whitehill Close, Ramsbury every Thursday at 9.30am

Village Walk

Sunday 6 July Whittonditch to Crowood Farm via Ballard Copse (4.4 miles 1.5hrs) Meet in the Square 2pm.

Doug Greenway has organised the monthly walks up to December. There will be no walk in August.

Lunch Club

Wednesday 9 and Wednesday 23 July with the AGM also on 23 July at 1.45pm. All welcome.

No Lunch Club in August. Enquiries to Diany 01672 520630 or diana.trickey@icloud.com.

Parish Council

The Annual Parish Meeting was attended by three residents. Committee chairmen reported on work done in the previous year. Those who attended expressed thanks to the PC for their work in the village. The APM was followed by the AGM of the Parish Council.

Sheila Glass and Diann Barnett were unanimously elected Chairman and Vice chairman respectively.

Diann reported that a defibrillator has been bought and installed at Axford village hall, paid for by fundraising in Axford and a generous contribution from Smiths of Axford who made up the shortfall. Diann also thanked Ken Read who installed it. Cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) is an important adjunct to a defib. The PC is hoping to organise a course to learn CPR in the autumn. To assess interest please contact parishcouncil@ramsbury.org if you would be interested.

The Parish Council is short of two Councillors. We can co-opt to fill these places. If you are interested please contact the Clerk on parishcouncil@ramsbury.org

Wiltshire Connect

A minibus which provides a local flexible service now comes to Ramsbury. To book a ride download the Wiltshire Connect app and follow directions or phone 01225 712900

Ramsbury Village Shops

We are fortunate to have two shops in Ramsbury, the Post Office and Midway Stores. Please use both regularly. They depend on your custom to be viable. Don't assume that goods will be more expensive, especially if petrol and parking are factored in, and both give excellent personal service. If everyone spent a small amount each week it would be a boost to their income.

Bedwyn Music Society

Friday 18 July in St. Mary's Church, Great Bedwyn at 7.30pm Arie Dakesian, classical guitar. Tickets £15 at the door. Enquiries contact Merial Larken on 07825 380 884

THANKS

Pat and Tim would like to say thank you to everyone who sent flowers, cards, gifts and good wishes following the recent dog attack on Pat. It makes us appreciate why living in Ramsbury is so special. We have been totally overwhelmed by everyone's kindness.

ADVANCE NOTICES

Saturday 2 August **Ramsbury Horticultural Society Summer Show** in the Memorial Hall.

Ramsbury Roxy – no Roxy until 19 September 2025

Edited by John Herbertson

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