

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Charity Shop Tue, Wed, Thurs & Sat 10 – 12.30, Tue & Thur 2 – 4.30		See text for all Church services	1 Bingo RBL	2	3 Good Friday	4
5 Easter Sunday Church services - see text Monthly walk- House on the Hill. Meet 2pm square	6 Easter Monday	7	8 Bingo RBL	9 WI monthly talk – see text for details, Church Rooms, 7pm	10	11 Hort Soc Spring Show 2-4 pm, Mem Hall
12 Church services - see text	13 Hort Soc AGM	14	15 Lunch Club Church Rooms Bingo RBL	16 10.30am WI coffee morning at the Royal British Legion.	17 Art Group, Methodist Chapel 2.30-4.30pm NTL: All My Sons, Mem Hall 6.30 for 7pm Pool Comp, RBL 7.00pm	18 Lowrie acoustic pop & soul, RBL 8.00pm
19 Church services - see text	20 Flyer trip-Lacock Parish Council meeting 7.45pm Ramsbury Mem Hall	21	22 Bingo RBL	23 St Georges Day	24	25 10 -12.30pm Fresher's Day, Memorial Hall Mud Honey Blues Band, RBL 8.00pm
26 Church services - see text The Roxy Film: The Roses, RBL, 7pm for 7.30pm	27	28	29 Lunch Club Church Rooms Bingo RBL	30	Ramsbury & Axford Link Scheme Mon-Fri 9 – 5	Ramsbury Library Mon & Thurs 2 - 4pm. Wed & Sat 10am - 12pm
<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 Scout Hut 10-1 Bowls Club 5.45 pm at the Bowling Green Flyer to Marlborough	<u>Every Wednesday</u> Flyer to Hungerford Bingo Ramsbury Royal British Legion 7 for 7.30pm	<u>Every Thursday</u> Phoenix Pizza Memorial Hall 4.45-8pm Bowls Club open evenings 5.45pm Bowling Green Methodist coffee morning 9.30am Lychgate Room.	<u>Every Friday</u> Ramsbury Silver Band Axford Village Hall 7.30- 9.30pm Flyer to Hungerford	<u>Every Saturday</u> Junior Football 10am April 2026



Ramsbury and Axford Village Diary

April 2026



May we have items for the May diary before 17 April.

Please email to diary@ramsbury.org

NATURE NOTES by *Peter Marren*

After a mild, if excessively wet, winter, spring came early this year. Frogs were spawning as early as February, ladybirds were emerging from hibernation, and over-wintering butterflies were on the wing, mainly peacocks, commas and male brimstones. It never ceases to amaze me that these brimstones are still fresh and bright despite being seven months old (they emerged from the chrysalis last July). By the beginning of March there were bees about, both newly emerged mining bees and overwintering queen bumblebees. Other early spring beasts included the glossy black oil beetle and the fuzzy, hovering bee-fly, jabbing the first flowers with its rapier-like tongue.

Among the first hedgerow blossoms of the year are flowering Prunus. First comes the cherry plum, usually as a small tree, closely followed in some hedges by wild plum or bullace, which may have originated as a hybrid between cherry plum and sloe. Both have relatively large flowers. The smaller, more whiskery flowers of sloe (or blackthorn as its usually called in the spring) come a little later but this year was coming into flower on the sunny side of hedges by the first days in March. Our celandines and primroses were on time, but were not as prolific as last year. More easily missed are dainty flowers like whitlow grass which formed strips of foam-like florets along the slats of the sagging Loft Bridge, or the shimmer of mauve from the massed flowers of Danish scurvy-grass on the traffic islands where our road meets the A4 at Hungerford. Originally a seaside plant, it has moved inland on roadways treated with salt.

Wild daffodils also were early, and fully out by the end of February. We are lucky enough to have several colonies of this subtle daffodil, shorter and paler than garden varieties. The golden male catkins of willows were out too, well before the leaves, and they offer a welcome source of nectar and pollen for early bees. The osiers and purple willows that form thickets along the seven bridges path were favourites of basket-makers and may have been planted for that purpose long ago. We are high on willow diversity: I once counted no fewer than eight different kinds along our bit of Newtown Road!

BIRD NOTES by *Paul Swan*

April is a peak month for nest building and egg laying. One of the busiest birds at this time is the male wren which can build up to seven or eight nests before trying to persuade a female to choose one and produce a family. We have had a wren nesting in a bird box for the last three years, and a male has already built the beginnings of a nest and is singing its heart out to try and 'sell' it. We shall see if the offer is taken up.

The wren is our commonest bird, with over 10 million pairs in the UK. By contrast, the woodlark has around 2,500 breeding pairs. So, it was wonderful to receive a report that at least one pair has been seen here in Loves Copse.

Our summer visitors have started to arrive, and we have seen willow warblers, chiffchaff, blackcaps, and Cetti's warblers, all singing. The swallows should arrive in early April, to be followed by the house martins and finally the swifts towards the end of the month.

Special sightings have been to see siskins in our garden, song thrushes and mistle thrushes on the walk past the Manor and a kingfisher at the Prior bridge. We even heard a Tawny owl calling in the afternoon.

RAINFALL by *Robert Osmond*

Rainfall for the month of February was 153mm / 6 inches, average 76mm / 3 inches.

We certainly had a February Fill Dyke! Another wet month, the fourth in a row well above average. February, with 153 mm was twice the monthly average, and in the last four months we've had 622 mm, which is 50% above average the that period. Although not pleasant the additional rainfall has replenished the water shortages following our very dry summer.

Holy Cross and Whitton Benefice

1st April (Wednesday of Holy Week) 7pm Chilton Foliat, Holy Week Reflective Pilgrimage

2nd April (Maundy Thursday) 7pm Aldbourne, Maundy Thursday Pilgrimage, Communion & stripping of altar

3rd April (Good Friday) 2pm Ramsbury, Readings & Reflections

5th April (Easter Day) 6.15am Springs Hill Ramsbury, "Son-rise" service,

9.30am Holy Cross, Easter Communion

6pm Axford, Easter Celebration

12th April (Easter 2) 8am, BCP Communion, 9.30am BCP Matins, both Ramsbury (both traditional language)

19th April (Easter 3) 9.30am Ramsbury, Holy Communion with Seedlings activity for children

26th April (Easter 4) 8am Ramsbury, BCP Communion (traditional language),

9.30 (Ramsbury) Café Church followed by Annual Meeting

A short (said) Holy Communion Service takes place 10am every Thursday in Ramsbury, **except 2nd April**

Reflective Spaces takes place at St Michael's Church, Aldbourne 7pm the 4th Wednesday of the Month

Aldbourn Methodist Church

5th April Sunday 10.30am Easter Service, with the Ramsbury Silver Band, led by Deacon Stephen Roe.

12th April Sunday 10.30am Service led by local Preacher.

17th April Friday Art Group held at the Chapel 2.30pm until 4.30pm

19th April Sunday 10.30am Service led by Revd Mark Barrett.

26th April Sunday 10.30am local Arrangement Service led by Steward & Members of the Chapel.

Bible study Tues afternoons 2.30-4.30pm in the Chapel Hall. Led by Revd Stephen Skinner, all welcome.

40th Anniversary Service, Events & Exhibition celebrations from 20th - 26th of April. Details coming soon.

Revamp Clothing Sale held in the Methodist Chapel 14th Feb raised over £4000 for Prospect Hospice and our Methodist Chapel. Well done all.

Ramsbury Royal British Legion

1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th April (All Wednesdays), Bingo 7pm for 7.30

17th April Friday, Pool Competition 7.00pm

18th April Saturday, Lowrie acoustic pop and soul 8.00pm

25th April Saturday, Mud Honey Blues Band 8.00pm

Recreation Centre 200 Club

The results of the March 200 Club draw are as follows: £100 to Muriel Lye, £50 each to Jen Stoye, Bruce Ginger, Si Smith, Ian Annand and Tim Pope and £25 each to Mora Abell, Betty Herbertson, Roger Henry, Jean Leslie, Ian Ritchie and Peter Osmond. 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 & Aldbourne Bowls Club

Our season opens early April so if you fancy giving this great game a try come to the green at the Ramsbury Recreation Centre. N.B. Short Mat Bowls on Mondays has finished until September.

Details about the club can be found on ramsburysandalbournbec.org. We look forward to seeing you.

Ramsbury WI

Thursday 9th April 7pm monthly meeting Church Rooms, Back Lane. Victoria Nye on Creating the Garden at Cadenham Manor. Visitors welcome, enquiries 01672 520261. N.B. this is the **2nd** Thursday in April.

Thursday 16 April 10.30am coffee morning at the Royal British Legion.

Ramsbury Horticultural Society

11th April Saturday 2-4 pm - Spring Show, Ramsbury Memorial Hall. Great opportunity to view an amazing variety of Spring flowers, baking, arts, crafts & children's exhibits. Entries welcomed from members & non-members alike, help boost the entries and submit your own - all are welcome. Enjoy a cup of tea & delicious cakes while meeting old & new friends. Show schedules available at Ramsbury Post Office & the Charity shop.

25th April, Saturday 10 -12.30pm - Fresher's Day Event, Ramsbury Memorial Hall. Come visit the Horticultural stand, talk to one of our committee members and find out about us, our events and membership. We enjoy fascinating talks throughout the year & the Spring, Summer & Autumn shows are not to be missed!

Ramsbury Roxy

17th April: National Theatre Live: All My Sons, Ramsbury Memorial Hall 6.30 for 7pm start.

26th April: The Roses (Film), Royal British Legion 7.00 for 7.30pm start

Lunch Club

Lunch Club this month will be on Wednesday 15th and Wednesday 29th April.

Ramsbury Flyer – available to all local villages

20th April, Monday: Lacock, plenty to see and do: a NT centre, with the Abbey and grounds, garden, village and Fox Talbot museum. Leaving at 10am: Fare £12

11th May, Monday: Blenheim Palace, leaving at 9.30: recently on Countryfile. Palace, park & gardens have different entry costs: Flyer fare £18

21st May, Thursday: Lunch with Vanessa and Carena: at a new venue, to be advised

4th June, Thursday: Cirencester and Organic Farm Shop: leaving 11.30: Fare £10

22nd June, Monday: Goring-on-Thames: and a possible visit to the Donkey Sanctuary

For details of pick-up & drop-off times contact Janet on 01672 520682, email booking@ramsburyflyer.org

Parish Council

The future of Ramsbury Fire Station is threatened. There were consultation meetings March 2nd and 3rd. These were not well attended- hope this does not indicate lack of interest in the future of the station.

Response times to Ramsbury from Marlborough 13mins, Swindon 23 mins are dubious and suboptimal.

Government funding for the fire service has been derisory over the last 15 years. 85% of funding now comes from Wilts Council through council tax. As with all emergency services we ignore them until we need them. Consultation runs until May 13th- QR code to access online survey are on notices in the villages. Online consultation on April 15th 6pm-7pm -the link will be on www.ramsbury.org.uk. Details of Fire Authority members' contacts are on www.dwfire.org.uk write to them! Look for notices, social media and website about potential meetings and more information.

New emergency generators have been installed at the village halls- no cost to us due to an SSE grant. Also, a defibrillator in the phone box on Whittonditch Road.

Monthly walk April 5th to the House on the Hill details on website, meet Square 2pm.

April PC meeting April 20th 7.45pm Ramsbury Memorial Hall, all welcome.

Ramsbury Community Charity Shop

As we move into spring- when you are clearing out, please think of us-your cast offs are someone else's finds and all the money stays in the village. Lots of wonderful items- also see us on Facebook. Paul New's wonderful plants will be starting soon. Come and find a bargain-we have things that you didn't even know you needed. We couldn't function without our wonderful volunteers so thanks to everyone

LINK

We are here for lifts for medical appointments, hairdressing, shopping. If you can't drive even if it's temporarily, we can help. Ring Penny on 520111 for details.

We have a cohort of wonderful drivers but we can always use more. If you would like to help us contact Penny, no commitment, we pay expenses and you'll meet some interesting people.

ADVANCE NOTICES

Boundary walk, May 3rd - details on www.ramsbury.org.uk.

Flyer trips May and June – see text



Wishing you a Happy Easter

Edited by Dawn Gill

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The Village Diary is available every month paper-free on www.ramsbury.org.uk > Diary > Diary