

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>Library – Free Internet</b> Mon 2–4 Wed 10–12, Sat 10–12		<b>1</b> Grown in Ramsbury pop-up shop 1 The Square	<b>2</b> Holy Cross Churchyard Tidy Up Grown in Ramsbury pop-up shop 1 The Sq
<b>3</b> See text for church services	<b>4</b> RAGS Xmas Bingo Mem Hall 7 for 7.30pm Carol Concert Ald Meth Church 7.30pm	<b>5</b> Inside Ramsbury Manor MH 7.15pm Roxy: Blackberry Brit Legion 7.30pm	<b>6</b> Lunch Club Xmas Party Church Rm 12-2pm	<b>7</b> WI Meeting Church Rooms <b>2.30 pm</b> Police Surgery Lychgate Room 7-8pm	<b>8</b> Butterfly Talk by Peter Marren Mem Hall 7.15pm	<b>9</b> Charity Shop does Xmas Bella Voce Xmas Concert at Holy Cross 7.30pm
<b>10</b> See text for church services  Roxy: NTL 'The Book of Dust' Mem Hall 5pm	<b>11</b> Parish Council Meeting Memorial Hall 7.45pm All are welcome	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Methodist Church coffee morning and gift swap Lychgate Rm 9.30am onwards	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Brit Legion Xmas Bazaar Mem Hall 10.3pm Brit Legion Xmas Bingo Mem Hall 7 for 7.30pm
<b>17</b> See text for church services	<b>18</b> Carols around the tree with Ramsbury Silver Band The Square 7pm	<b>19</b> WI Dining Club The Crown in Aldbourne 12.30pm	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> WI Coffee Morning British Legion 10.30am Methodist Carol Service Aldbourne 7.30pm	<b>22</b> Winter Concert St Michael's Axford 6pm	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> See text for church services	<b>25</b> <i>HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR READERS</i>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Roxy: The Secret Theatre Mem Hall 5pm	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> Holy Cross Church see text for services  Methodist Church see text for services  Tennis Club 10.00am	<u>Every Monday</u>  Short Mat Bowls Memorial Hall 2.30 0 5pm	<u>Every Tuesday</u>  Flyer to <b>Marlborough</b>	<u>Every Wednesday</u> Ramsbury Lambs Mem Hall 9.30 - 11.30am  Flyer to <b>Hungerford</b>	<u>Every Thursday</u> HC Communion service 10am  Phoenix Pizza last day is 7 <sup>th</sup> Dec MH 4.45-8.15pm	<u>Every Friday</u> Ramsbury Silver Band Axford Village Hall 7.30- 9.30pm  Flyer to Hungerford	<u>Every Saturday</u> Junior Football 10.00am  <b>December 2023</b>



# Ramsbury and Axford Village Diary

## December 2023

May we have items for the next diary by 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*

In the relatively mild days and nights in early November there was still plenty of insect life about. One morning I found several little moths sitting on my car. The wavy white line on their narrow wings told me they were Diamond-back moths, one no larger than a fingernail which has somehow spread all over the world, and in some places has become a significant pest of cabbages. If you see a pale, flappy moth in the lights, there's a good chance it's the suitably-named November Moth (though it also flies in October!). They used to think that these mottled pale-grey moths flying late in the year had anti-freeze in their make-up. In fact, their secret seems to be low body weight compared with relatively large wings. Moths normally need to warm up to fly, usually by vibrating their wings. This one doesn't bother. Because it doesn't need to beat its wings so fast, its muscles don't need to warm up so much. And it can flap about in the winter cold and dark without using up much energy. So simple, but it seems to work. This, and the Winter Moth, which flies in December, are so common that their caterpillars form an important food for nesting tits, especially Great Tit, come the spring.

The trees were at last putting on their autumn tints by early November. The great oaks bordering our quiet lanes were turning a lovely coppery colour, while some of the beeches, having already covered the ground with a layer of ripe mast, were golden-yellow and others a plummy red. The field maples seem almost to shine, a pure sunshine-yellow. As for the Liquidamber tree in my neighbour's garden, it glows in the sun like an Olympic torch.

So long as the mild, wet weather continued there were plenty of fungi around, especially those that grow on dead and rotting wood and roots. In Savernake we saw spectacular numbers of honey fungus and sulphur-tuft, both of which sprout in large clusters on stumps. Honey fungus has a bad reputation as a tree-killer in gardens and orchards, and there are no known chemical controls either. In the wild, though, it provides what one could regard as a useful, even necessary, function, rotting down old stumps and other useless dead wood. Why is it called honey fungus? Some say it's due to the yellow-brown colour of the caps, but I experimentally ate one once and found it strangely sweet.

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

The golden plover have continued to increase on Spring Hill, and now number around 200. As always, they give an amazing display when flying in bright sunshine, seeming to glitter as they change direction. Also on the hill we still have a large flock of linnets, some goldfinches, some yellowhammers and many overwintering skylarks.

Walking through Burnt Wood, we were escorted by a beautiful buzzard that eventually stopped on a tree branch and gave us a stern looking inspection. Seen through binoculars it is easy to see how people in the past have mistaken them for eagles!

December can be a tough time for birds, and if we get any serious snow this month many ground feeding species, such as skylarks will migrate further west until the ground beneath them is green rather than white. Our garden birds do not migrate and will suffer in extreme weather. Keeping the bird table and feeders topped up, as well as providing water will help a significant number get through the toughest days ahead.

In our garden the sparrows, dunnocks and tits are regular visitors to the feeders, while our resident robin is still in good voice and may well start pairing up in the next few weeks.

The sighting of the month was a female smew at Town Mill, a diving duck with a serrated bill.

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

Another wet month with 149mm of rain in October, above the average of 92.89mm. The last four months have all been over 100mm which is very rare to have consecutive months so wet. To highlight how unusual this is total rainfall for the last four months has been 505.2mm, compared to an average of 290.19mm.

## **Recreation Centre 200 Club**

The results for November are: £100 to Mark Leslie, £50 to each of Tony Prior, Rick Doore, Gill Devey, Rosemary Triptree, Georgina Smith, and £25 to each of Vicky Hellyer, Mike Ferris, Susan Suchopar, Kevin Jauncey, Chris Inward and James Dallas. To join, contact Ian Smith 07977 473975 or [oldtiff@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:oldtiff@hotmail.co.uk)

## **Holy Cross and the Whitton Parish**

3<sup>rd</sup> Dec 8.00am Ramsbury BCP Communion (traditional language).

There is also a choice of Parish-wide Team services:

9:30am Team 'Contemporary Prayer & Praise' at St Nicholas, Baydon,

11:00am Team Communion at St Michael's Aldbourne, 4.00pm Ramsbury 'Café Church'.

10<sup>th</sup> Dec 8.00am Ramsbury BCP Communion, 9:30am HC, 4:00pm St Michael's, Axford Carol Service.

17<sup>th</sup> Dec 5:00pm Carols by Candlelight with Bella Voce choir.

24<sup>th</sup> Dec - Christmas Eve 4:00pm Christingle 11:00pm Midnight Christmas Communion.

25<sup>th</sup> Dec - Christmas Day 9:30am Christmas all-age communion.

31<sup>st</sup> Dec - New Year's Eve 10:00am Team Communion with carols at St Michael's, Aldbourne.

Focus this month, of course, is on our traditional Carols (in Ramsbury and Axford), Christingle and Christmas services. We also have our Parish-wide offering of alternative worship services in Baydon and Aldbourne on the first Sunday of the month, also our informal 'Cafe Church' in Ramsbury at 4pm.

There are no Sunday morning ZOOM services this month but look out for Advent study groups on ZOOM.

## **Aldbourn Methodist Church Services**

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 10.30am Service led by local Preacher.

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December 10.30am Local Arrangement service.

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December 10.30am Service led by Revd. Stephen Skinner.

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December 7.00pm Carols with Ramsbury Silver Band under the tree in the Square.

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December 7.30pm Carol Service at Aldbourne.

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December 10.30am Service led by Revd. Mark Barrett.

Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December 10.30am Section Service led by Revd. Stephen Skinner at Aldbourne.

All are welcome to join our services at Aldbourne.

Coffee morning on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Dec in the Lychgate Room, Ramsbury from 9.30am. Please buy a small gift (between £3 - £5) and bring it along to the coffee morning wrapped up as a surprise for someone else. Gifts will be swapped on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December.

## **St Michaels Axford**

Axford Winter concert, Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 6pm, St Michael's church. Seasonal music for 1 - 4 voices, accompanied by piano. Enjoy mulled wine and mince pies. Tickets £12 via [alicepsimmons@gmail.com](mailto:alicepsimmons@gmail.com)

## **Ramsbury & Axford Golf Society**

Christmas Bingo at the Memorial Hall Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December. Doors open at 7.00pm, eyes down 7.30pm.

## **Ramsbury WI**

Monday 4 December 7.30pm Carol Concert at Aldbourne Methodist Church. Members should know their transport arrangements: please contact Mary on 520908 with any queries. Thursday 7 December **2.30pm** monthly meeting in the Church Rooms. Christmas Craft afternoon with tea and mince pies. All materials provided. Please note earlier time. Tuesday 19 December Dining Club outing to The Crown at Aldbourne, 12pm for 12.30pm. Any enquiries to Rosalie on 520261. Thursday 21 December coffee morning at the Royal British Legion Club, 10.30am onwards.

## **Roxy**

Exciting changes are taking place this winter. First we are pleased to announce several new National Theatre Live productions including Skylight and Dear England as well as a special Christmas offering from the Scottish Ballet Company. Second, we will show our first film (Blackberry) in Ramsbury's Royal British Legion. The Ramsbury Royal British Legion is now the proud owner of a brand new, state of the art, 4K projector offering Ultra High Definition video on a large (110") screen with full surround sound. We feel that this new venue will provide a great complement to the Memorial Hall for hosting more films in 2024. Please do support this initiative. Visit [www.ramsburyroxy.org](http://www.ramsburyroxy.org) for up-to-date information.

## **Lunch Club**

The lunch Club Christmas party is on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> Dec. We look forward to welcoming all our guests.

## Hills Stores Charity Shop

We are still unsure of a moving date, but we will be up and running for a bright start to 2024.

As a last hurrah we will do Christmas for the last time in the shop. The Christmas shop will be open on 9<sup>th</sup> December. We have Christmas decorations, gifts - new and recycled, stocking fillers, toys, books all at bargain prices as well as the usual eclectic mix of items and you don't have to travel to shop! So come along and save on your Christmas shopping. See our Facebook page for more details.

Things are still going well - weather and scaffolding have taken their toll but our resilient customers and volunteers are keeping things going. As ever we are grateful to our volunteers and generous donors.

Sheila Glass Mary Holdsworth

## Ramsbury Flyer Community Bus

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> December leaving Ramsbury at 9.45am to **Marlborough** via Aldbourne, Axford and Minal arriving at 10.20. The bus leaves Marlborough to return at 12 noon. Bus pass accepted.

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December leaving Ramsbury at 9.45am to **Marlborough** via Chilton Foliat and Froxfield arriving at 10.20. This service leaves Marlborough to return at 12 noon. Bus pass accepted.

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December leaving Ramsbury Square at 11.30am to **Newbury**. Other pickups can be arranged. Return from Newbury at 2.30pm. Fare £5, pre-book seats with Janet. Bus passes cannot be used.

Wednesdays collecting at Ramsbury stops from 10am to **Hungerford** via Chilton Foliat, Herongate, Froxfield, Cobbs. Dobbies garden centre by request. Bus pass accepted.

Fridays collecting at Ramsbury stops from 10am to Hungerford via Aldbourne and all of the above stops. Dobbies by request. Bus pass accepted.

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.

## Holy Cross Church - Annual Autumn Churchyard Clear-up

The Churchyard Sweep-up & Bonfire will be on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December from 10.00-13.00pm. Please come, armed with rakes and bring refreshments! Wear warm/wet-weather clothing & wellies. Please contact Ian McCall (520 780) if you have 'manageable timber' which can be burned - fenceposts and panels, small pallets etc. If you can deliver it/them to the churchyard that would help. We hope you will be able to make it. Many thanks for all your help maintaining the churchyard over the past year, it's really appreciated.

## LINK

We are here to help with lifts for medical appointments, hairdresser, shopping etc. We need drivers to be able to offer this service. If you think you could help us, get in touch. We pay mileage and expenses. Coffee morning on the first Friday of the month for clients and drivers. For enquiries, contact Penny on 520111.

## Allotments

AGM on 5<sup>th</sup> December 7.00pm in the Lychgate Room. Allotment holders please attend to pay your rent for 2024. If you would like an allotment in 2024 come along for more details. Full plot £65p.a. half plot £35 quarter plot £25 "taster" raised bed £10 Contact Denise Edwards 07867921878 or see [www.ramsburyallotments.co.uk](http://www.ramsburyallotments.co.uk)

## Parish Council

We are still trying to build a database to enable swift communication, this will be useful in times of an emergency. Please complete a form if you haven't already done so providing us with your contact details. Forms are available from the Post Office, library or on our website [www.ramsbury.org.uk](http://www.ramsbury.org.uk)

For blocked road drains please report to [parishcouncil@ramsbury.org](mailto:parishcouncil@ramsbury.org)

Many thanks to Sheila Glass and Mary Holdsworth for the Remembrance Day flowers and poppies and to Bob Foale for the beautiful new gate positioned at the entrance to the Memorial garden.

Police consultation surgery Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00pm in the Lychgate Room.

Prospect Hospice fundraisers will collect Christmas trees from the area to the east of the Whittonditch football pitch. Leave trees Jan 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> PLEASE NOT AFTER THAT DATE. We will be publishing new Environmental policies on our website in the near future.

## Advance Notices

13 January D-Day committee Entertainment Quiz in the Memorial Hall.

*Edited by Karen Rees*

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