

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Art Group Church Room 10-1	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> WI <u>meeting 7.30pm</u> Miracle Theatre Co	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> PTA Fete Sports Field
<b>7</b> Village Walk The Square 2.30pm	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Lunch Club	<b>11</b> Flyer to Newbury	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Parish Council meeting 7.45pm	<b>16</b> Art Group Church Room 10-1	<b>17</b> PCSO in British Legion café 11am to noon	<b>18</b> Painting / craft work <u>Ramsbury Hill</u> WI coffee morning	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> RAGS <u>Test Valley</u> Flyer Outing	<b>25</b> WI Dining Club RBL 12.30	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>Charity Shop</b> Tue, Wed, Thur & Sat 10 – 12.30. Tue & Thur 2 – 4.30	Ramsbury & Axford <b>Link Scheme</b> Mon-Fri 9 – 5 Tel 520111	<b>Ramsbury Library</b> Mon 2-4pm. Wed 10-12pm Sat 10-12
<u>Every Sunday</u> Holy Cross See text for <u>services</u> Methodist Church See text for <u>services</u> Tennis Club 10.am	<u>Every Monday</u>	<u>Every Tuesday</u> 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tue Art Group <u>Church Room 10-1</u> Bowls Club 5.45 pm at the Bowling <u>Green</u> Flyer to Marlborough	<u>Every Wednesday</u> Flyer to Hungerford	<u>Every Thursday</u> Phoenix Pizza Memorial Hall 4.45 to 8.15pm ————— 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  <b>July 2024</b>



# Ramsbury and Axford Village Diary

## July 2024



**May we have items for the August diary before 17 July.**

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

### **NATURE NOTES** by *Peter Marren*

As midsummer approaches, and nature's year nears its climax, there is no shortage of things to report. In fact, it's hard to know where to start. One piece of good news is that the bee orchids are showing again at Littlecote. I feared that they had been wiped out with Round-up during the recent archaeological restoration, but around 40 spikes appeared in the grass at the end of May, some bearing up to a dozen little 'bees'. Another exciting find was the now-rare shepherd's needle, a cornfield 'weed' with an array of needle-like pods radiating from the stalk. We found many plants running along the edge of the field between the village and the manor, which this year has been planted with rye. A second rarity was rough hawk's-beard, on the green lane below Spring Hill. This is a 'botanist's plant', not easily distinguished from other hawk's-beards, hawkbits and 'hawk-somethings'. But all the same, it's a handsome plant, a bit like a dandelion on steroids, growing a full metre tall.

Insect numbers continue to be well below average. We counted 15 Duke of Burgundy butterflies at Spring Hill on May 25th, most of them males. But the most exciting record was of the cigar-sized caterpillar of the Clifden nonpareil or blue underwing, one of our largest – and, formerly, among our rarest – moths. It is rarely sighted since it is said to feed only by night and in the treetops, but when fully grown it needs to crawl all the way down to the ground where it spins a rough cocoon among fallen leaves. This one was spotted and rescued as it crossed a lane. When picked up it twists and squirms, like a little snake. It will, I hope, pupate successfully and produce the gorgeous blue-banded moth in a month's time.

There have been several reports of hummingbird hawk-moths from gardens where it can be seen feeding at the hover with the help of its long proboscis or tongue (kept neatly coiled at other times). It is a summer migrant, as is another moth that will sometimes buzz up from your feet in daytime. This is the Silver Y, so-called because it has a shiny letter of that shape on its forewings. They often look worn, and no wonder – they have buzzed here all the way from Spain or the south of France.

### **BIRD NOTES** by *Paul Swan*

The last month has been a bumper one for sightings. We have either seen, or had reported, spotted flycatchers at The Triangle, corn buntings singing on Spring Hill, tree pipits on the lower slopes, and yellow wagtails at Ambrose Farm. A black swan and cygnets have been seen at the bridge to Froxfield, presumably having wandered down the river from the Manor Lake. All these special sightings are in addition to all our regulars – like the mixed flock of seven red kites and four buzzards over our garden yesterday evening and the seven swifts that have set up home in the Square.

The gardens have been equally busy, with one being blessed by regular visits from a pair of bullfinches. The male bullfinch must be one of our most striking garden birds. In our own garden we have had both greenfinches and a goldcrest as unusual visitors. We are delighted that a wren has again taken up residence in one of our bird boxes. Once the chicks have fledged, the female will become particularly vocal, and it always amazes me how such a small bird can have such a loud song. Apparently, this is possible because the wren has an organ called a syrinx with a resonating chamber and membranes that utilise virtually all the air in the lungs and can produce two notes at the same time. Clever little thing!

### **RAINFALL** by *Robert Osmond*

Rainfall in May was 79 mm, and although the month with the least amount of rain since June 2023, it was the eleventh month in a row with above average rainfall. During this unusually wet spell, from the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023 to the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024 we have had 1478 mm of rain, probably the most rain we have ever had in a twelve month period. Looking at the records going back to 1968 the wettest year was 1998 with 1091 mm. This indicates just how wet it's been compared with the annual average of 886 mm !

### **Recreation Centre 200 Club June results**

£100 to Dennis White, £50 each to Barry Hierons, Milly Walsh, Lionel Barnes, Barry Stephens and Rachel Byfield and £25 each to Paul Foley, Jen Stoyle, Veena Nandha, Di Trickey, Paul Swan and Simon Smith  
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](mailto:oldtiff@hotmail.co.uk)

### **Ramsbury WI**

Thursday 4 July Monthly meeting 7.30pm in the Church Rooms. Joyce Meader makes a return visit to talk about Hand Knitting from 1945 to the Present Day. Always a great personality and a fun speaker. Visitors welcome. Enquiries to 520908.

Thursday 18 July Coffee morning at The Royal British Legion, 10.30am onwards.

Thursday 25 July Dining Club lunch at the Royal British Legion, 12.30pm, all enquiries to 520261.

### **Cornwall's Miracle Theatre Company present "Love Riot" at Ogbourne Maizey**

Thursday 4 July Gates open 6pm for picnics, performance at 7.30pm. Bring your own chairs. Bar/coffee/ice creams/WC/. Maizey Lodge, Ogbourne Maizey, SN8 1RY. Tickets in advance only: Adults £16, children (under 16) £8, Family £42 (2A+2C). Tickets: 01672-512125 or email [maizey50@gmail.com](mailto:maizey50@gmail.com)

### **Whitton Benefice**

Church with a difference! Join us for a relaxed 'cafe-style' service in Aldbourne on 14 July at 11am or Ramsbury on 21 July at 9:30am. Or an 'outdoor walk' service ("Muddy Church") in Aldbourne also on 21 July at 4pm. Also, our 'church service not in church!' on ZOOM (Meeting ID: 948 3407 2630; Passcode: 343860) at 11:30am on 14, 21 and 28 July. You can join a Zoom service on your telephone if you do not use ZOOM!! Phone number 0203 481 5240. And for a more contemplative service, join us for "Reflective Spaces" at Aldbourne on 24 July at 7pm.

Services in Holy Cross, Ramsbury unless otherwise noted:

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

Sunday 7 July 11.00am Team Holy Communion at Froxfield

Sunday 14 July 8:30am Holy Communion (BCP), 9:30am Matins (BCP)

Sunday 21 July 9:30am Cafe Church

Sunday 28 July 9:30am Holy Communion

### **Methodist Church**

Sunday 7 July 10.30am Service led by Local Preacher.

Sunday 14 July 10.30am Action for Children week, Service led by Local Preacher.

Sunday 21 July 10.30am service led by Revd Stephen Skinner.

Sunday 28 July 10.30am Service led by Revd Mark Barrett.

Monday 1 July Cake & Co. All are welcome to join us on at Aldbourne Methodist Chapel Hall, Lottage Rd, Aldbourne SN8 2DL. If you need transport contact : Liz Nash 01672 540881 and [liznash0907@outlook.com](mailto:liznash0907@outlook.com)

Thursdays 6, 13 and 27 July coffee morning at the Lychgate at 9.30am Join us for coffee.

All are welcome to join us - coffee, swap puzzles and books, and find out what's happening in your village.

### **Ramsbury Village Walk**

Sunday 7 July meet at the Square for circular walk at 2.30pm see website [www.ramsbury.org.uk](http://www.ramsbury.org.uk) for details.

### **Lunch Club**

Wednesday 10 July Ramsbury Lunch Club and AGM.

We then break until the Club resumes on Wednesday 11 September.

### **Ramsbury Flyer Community Bus**

Tuesdays to Marlborough leaving Ramsbury 9.45am (route varies) return 12 noon. Bus passes can be used.

Thursday 11 July Flyer to Newbury leaving Ramsbury Square at 11.30am returning 2.30pm. Seats must be booked with Janet (see below). Fare £5 Bus passes cannot be used.

Wednesdays and Fridays Flyer to Hungerford leaving Ramsbury at 10am. Bus passes may be used. Aldbourne passengers now need to book their seats with Janet (see below) see posters in Aldbourne.

Surgery transport is available on Tuesday pm and Thursday am. Book via the Receptionist at the Surgery.

### **Flyer Trips**

Wednesday 24 July Evening trip to White Horse Hill, Uffington - to enjoy the spectacular view and have a pub supper afterwards : Fare £6

Monday 5 August : Seaside trip to Mudeford and Christchurch : come and enjoy some sea air !! fare £25  
Monday 19 August : another opportunity to have lunch with Vanessa and Carena : details to be advised.  
Thursday 29 August : an evening at the horse races in Newbury: come and back a winner! Fare £5  
Saturday 31 August : Flyer to Bournemouth Air Show: free entry and only £25 fare : places selling fast !!  
Please call Janet for more information and to book your seats: 01672 520682 or 07584 253117.

***Painting/craft work in the garden of Ramsbury Hill***

Thursday 18 July 11.30am - 4pm. Artists (of all capabilities) are invited to come and spend a peaceful time in the historic garden of Ramsbury Hill, Back Lane. Bring your own chair, refreshment and equipment.

***Ramsbury and Axford Golf Society***

Wednesday 24 July the Texas Scramble at Test Valley.

Further information from John Harrod email johnharrod238@gmail.com or 07342 233992.

***Parish Council***

At the AGM Sheila Glass and Dianne Barnett were re-elected as Parish Council Chairman & Vice Chairman. As part of D-Day 80 commemorations the PC served cream teas in the Square on June 2nd -around 120 people were served. We raised £115 for Prospect Hospice.

At the PC meeting on 10 June we discussed the result of traffic surveys in Whittonditch Road and High Street which showed that the average speeds were 29mph and 22mph respectively. These speeds do not meet the criteria for any intervention. We resolved not to seek a 20mph limit in the village.

The PC agreed to join the Hall trustees in funding the refurbishment of a print of the Millenium tapestry which hangs in the hall. We acknowledge the time and expertise which Philip Perkins brought to the project, producing an excellent print from photographs taken by Michael Handford. Philip kindly refused to charge for this so the only cost is £150 for framing. The finished product should be in place in July.

PCSO Melissa Camilleri will attend a police consultation at the British Legion café on 17 July 11am-noon for residents to raise any matters.

There have been some incidents of graffiti, littering and vandalism at Whittonditch play area. If you are the parent of a child who meets there in the evening perhaps you could have a word.

***Allotments***

The allotments are in full flow now with lots planting, weeding and hoeing. If you are interested in a plot contact Denise Edwards on 07867921878

***Ramsbury Community Charity Shop***

The Charity Shop is continuing to thrive in the new premises thanks in no small part to Paul New's wonderful plants. The distribution to organisations who helped us this quarter is £500 for each, £3,000 in all so we are continuing to make a valuable contribution to the village economy. Thanks as ever to all our lovely helpers and to donors and customers.

Sheila Glass and Mary Holdsworth

***Marlborough Open Studios - every weekend in July.***

Brochures are available from the Post Office or visit marlboroughopenstudios.co.uk for full details.

In Ramsbury we have Ann Richmond, Susan Kirkman and Arran Miles.

In Froxfield Paul Swan, Diana Barraclough and Normandy Barcelo-Soto.

***Urgent appeal - Equipment / Tools for Ukraine***

Hungerford based charity [www.helptoukraine.co.uk](http://www.helptoukraine.co.uk) are collecting the following: generators, mechanics' tools eg spanners, pliers, screwdrivers, socket sets, hex key sets, WD-40 spray, tyre pumps, small compressors, car battery chargers, car jacks & stands, vehicle / boat winch, folding shovels, saws / hand axes, camp beds & folding chairs, kneeling mats, staple guns & staples, cable ties, Kärcher or similar pressure washer, electric cable - 2.5mm core black flex cable (25A) up to 50m lengths. **Donations for Ukraine are stored in Ramsbury.** Please contact Tony 07999 693 399 or Mandy 07762 935 804

***THANKS***

Peter and Janie Kearns have moved to Hitchin in Hertfordshire and would like to thank everyone in Ramsbury and Axford for their good wishes and friendships over the past 33 years

***Edited by John Herbertson***

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