

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|--|---|---|---|--|
| | Ramsbury & Axford Link Scheme Mon-Fri 9 – 5 Tel 520111 | Ramsbury Library Mon 2-4pm.Wed 10-12pm Sat 10-12 | Ramsbury Charity Shop Tue, Wed, Thur & Sat 10 – 12.30. Tue & Thur 2 – 4.30 | | 1 | 2 Kate mills (singer) RBL 7.30 for 8.30 |
| 3 Boundary Walk | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 WI Meeting Church Rooms 7pm | 8 | 9 Plant Sale 10 - 12 Premium Banana |
| 10 Ramsbury Run Roxy RBL | 11 Flyer outing to Blenheim Palace | 12 | 13 Police consultation RBL 11am | 14 | 15 Ramfest | 16 Ramfest |
| 17 | 18 Parish Council Annual Meeting & AGM 7.45pm | 19 | 20 Lunch Club | 21 WI coffee morning RBL 10.30am Flyer lunch outing | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 WI Dining Club lunch | 29 National Theatre Live | 30 Singing keeper (live music). RBL Club 8.30pm |
| 31 The Old Mill Open NGS | The Village Diary is available on the Ramsbury website every month. See www.ramsbury.org.uk – What's on - Village Diary | | | | | |
| <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 British Legion Club 7 for 7.30pm | <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 May 2026 |



Ramsbury and Axford Village Diary

May 2026



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

NATURE NOTES by *Peter Marren*

April is the month for first sightings of spring. We watch the world around us greening and unfolding by the day. The dawn soloists swell into a chorus, the hedgerows burst into leaf, the lovely flowering of the 'blackthorn winter' is followed promptly by the blossom of wild cherry and wild apple and the first tender leaves of oak and beech slip from their buds. Only ash is still bare, apart from its brush-like flowers. Among my earliest dates are oil beetles (on March 2nd), sallow bees visiting catkins (5th), first lambs (14th), and first mayflies (15th). Bluebells were fully out by early April, about three weeks earlier than in my youth. My first butterfly (other than hibernated peacocks and brimstones) was a Speckled Wood on March 30th, soon followed by Green-veined White, Orange-tip, and Holly Blue. The first white butterflies of the year are almost immaculate: that is, they are nearly all white with mere smudges of black.

Early April is peak time for dandelions. The name comes from Norman French – *dent-de-lion* – and refers to the toothy leaves. We take them for granted, but dandelions are in fact unusual. For a start, they are all female. Although the leonine flowers produce pollen and bees come to collect it, the pollen is non-functional. Instead, the flowers set seed purely in the female line so that their offspring is genetically identical to the parent plant. But occasional mutation does produce variants, differing only in tiny details, but which are nevertheless classed as species. That is why we have at least 250 different kinds of dandelions, though only experts (not me!) can tell them apart. Dandelion leaves are bitter-tasting but edible, either raw in salads or fried, but don't over-indulge for the plant is a diuretic, hence its folk-name, wet-the-bed! Finally, as every gardener knows, the long, thick root of dandelions makes them hard to remove. The root drags the leaves towards the ground, laying them flat and so creating a space among a mass of grass. And with the thousands of feather-light seeds floating in the breeze, no wonder dandelions are so successful!

"Birds of Ramsbury", compiled by Peter Marren on behalf of the Ramsbury Wildlife Group, is available at Ramsbury Post Office. £5

BIRD NOTES by Paul Swan

The swallows arrived over the Easter weekend, and have already been joined by the house martins, both a little earlier than last year. The swifts should be joining us in the next few weeks and will hopefully take up residence in the Square. Some may also accept the offer of the brand-new swift boxes on the South side of the High Street. Fingers crossed.

Many birds return to the same nests year after year. These include the red kites that are at home here. We are aware of four sites where the birds are back and probably already sitting on eggs. The kestrels have also returned to the same dead tree on the way to Littlecote for the fourth year running. The nest must be in a hollow, as we cannot see it, but one of the adults is usually perched on a branch ready to see off any intruders. While we are used to seeing red kites being mobbed by crows and rooks, we have now seen ravens being chased away from nest sites by the red kites.

Seven Bridges continues to be one of the best areas to see a wide variety of birds. On a recent visit we saw kingfishers and heard five different warblers – blackcap, chiffchaff, Cetti's warbler, reed and willow warbler. All being well, one or more cuckoos are on the way, and one usually stays in this same area.

RAINFALL by *Robert Osmond*

After four very wet months finally some drier weather. March typically lived up to its reputation for some very variable weather, sometimes four seasons in one day! Rainfall of 48 mm was below the March average of 64 mm, and there were some unusually warm days in the first half of the month. Highlighting how variable our rainfall can be, we have had more rain in the first three months of 2026, 386 mm, than we had up to the end of August in 2025. Hopefully our summer this year will not be so dry!

Recreation Centre 200 Club April results

£100 to Kirsty Wilson, £50 to each of Alistair Ewing, David de Saxe, Jo Wiggan, Hannah McKay, Sonia Park and £25 to each of Emma Egan, Gillian Hill, Clive Glass, Paula Stephens, Helen Stone and Geraldine Smith. The club costs £60 a year to join. Funds are split 50/50 between prizes and the Recreation Centre. We are always looking for new members so if you are interested please contact Ian Smith at oldtiff@hotmail.co.uk

Royal British Legion Club

Saturday 2 May - Kate Mills (singer) doors open 7.30pm music from 8.30pm.

Saturday 30 May Singing Keeper (live music) 8.30pm

Holy Cross and Whitton Benefice

Sunday 3 May 10am Froxfield Team Holy Communion

Sunday 10 May 9.30am Ramsbury BCP Matins (*traditional language*)

Sunday 17 May 9.30am Ramsbury Holy Communion with Seedlings activity for children

Sunday 24 May 9.30am Café Church

Sunday 31 May 9.30am Ramsbury Holy Communion with prayer stations

A short (said) service of Holy Communion takes place each Thursday at 10.00am in Ramsbury.

Full details of all services in Whitton Benefice are available in Whitton Ways

Aldbourne and Ramsbury Methodist Chapel Services

Sunday 3 May 10.30am service led by Local Preacher.

Sunday 10 May 10.30am Service led by Revd Andrew Bird.

Sunday 17 May 10.30am service led by Revd Stephen Skinner.

Sunday 24 May 10.30am Pentecost service led by Local Preacher.

Sunday 31 May 10.30am Trinity service led by Local Preacher.

Every Tuesday Bible course in the Chapel Hall from 2.30pm. All our welcome.

We are still collecting stamps at the Methodist Chapel for the blind.

Coffee morning at 9.30am on 7, 21 and 28 May in the garden 6 Whitehill Close, Ramsbury. All welcome.

Thankyou to Ramsbury Silver Band who brought the joy of music on Easter Sunday to our Chapel.

Ramsbury Parish Boundary Walk

Sunday 3 May the annual Boundary Walk starts in the Square at 7.30am and ends at the Royal British Legion at 6pm. The Ramsbury Flyer gives lifts to and from the stops. Details of the walk and the Flyer timings are on the website www.ramsbury.org.uk, in the Square and leaflets in the Post Office. Please bring cash. This is a fund raiser for the Scouts and the RBL who provide bacon butties and cake. Sorry NO DOGS.

Ramsbury WI

Thursday 7 May 7pm **Annual Meeting** in the Church Rooms. All members are encouraged to attend this meeting where we hear treasurer and secretary reports and elect our committee and president for the coming year. We shall discuss the two Resolutions that are going to our National AGM in June. The evening will end with supper and time for chat over a glass of fizz. Any enquiries to 01672 520908 or 520261.

Thursday 21 May 10.30am onwards, coffee morning at the Royal British Legion café.

Thursday 28 May Dining Club lunch, venue & menus etc to be confirmed.

Ramsbury Horticultural Society

Following a very successful RHS AGM on 13 April in the Church Rooms, we held a gardening quiz which caused much entertainment and learning. Many thanks to the compiler, Diann Barnett.

Saturday 9 May **Plant Sale** 10 - 12 Memorial Hall. Tea & Served by Axford Village Hall Ladies

Bedding plants, Annuals, Perennials, Vegetables, Herbs, Shrubs, plus tea and cakes.

Please email hortsoc@ramsbury.org to make plant donations. This event is reliant on plant donations.

Sunday 31 May - **The Old Mill will open for National Garden Scheme**

Ramsbury & Aldbourne Bowls Club Home Matches in May

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| Sat. 9 th Wroughton 10am | Mon. 11 th Rodbourne Cheney 2pm | Wed. 13 th Faringdon 6.15pm |
| Wed. 20 th Shrivenham 6.15pm | Sat. 23 rd Swindon Supermarine 10am | Tues. 26 th Swindon Supermarine 2pm |

Visitors can have undercover or greenside seating. Refreshments are available.

Premium Banana Live supporting Ramsbury Recreation Centre

Saturday 9 May Premium Banana in the Memorial Hall 7.30pm to 11.30pm

Tickets £15 available from Ramsbury Post Office or Ian Smith tel 07977 473975 or oldtiff@hotmail.co.uk

Ramsbury Roxy

Sunday 10 May : Film: The Secret Agent in the Royal British Legion Club 7 for 7.30pm start Tickets £6

Friday 29 May: National Theatre Live: Playboy of the Western World 6.30 for 7pm start Tickets £12

More information available on <https://www.ramsburyroxy.org/>

Ramsbury Flyer Outings

Monday 11 May Blenheim Palace leaving at 9.30 Flyer fare £18 + entry fee for palace, park and gardens

21 May Lunch with Vanessa & Carena. 4 June Cirencester & Organic Farm Shop. 22 June Goring on Thames.

Please ring Janet for more information and to book 01672 520682 or 07584 253117

Parish Council

Best Kept Village competition this year- judging in May, so please try to keep the village litter free.

The consultation re proposed **closure of Ramsbury Fire Station** runs until 13 May. Fire Authority members' contacts can be found on www.dwfire.org.uk - letters to these people and our MP will be useful.

We hope to start **CPR training session** soon. If interested please contact clerk parishcouncil@ramsbury.org

Wednesday 13 May **Police consultation** in the British Legion at 11am.

18 May **PC Annual Meeting** 7.45 Memorial Hall. Residents are invited to hear summary of the work of the PC in the last year and to raise any issues or concerns + AGM includes election of chairman & vice chairman

Lunch Club

Lunch Club this month will be on Wednesday 20 May

Ramsbury Community Charity Shop

Spring cleaning? If you are clearing out, please donate to us. Spring brings Paul New's plants - bedding, perennials, veg. Prices below garden centres. We recently distributed £1,650 to organisations who man the shop. Total since we opened is £147,000. Thanks to all our helpers and Paul's plants. Sheila and Mary

Allotments

The allotment site has had a makeover recently. There is time to get planting for this season. 20m x 5m costs £40 a year and 5m x 1.5m £15 a year Contact Denise 07867921878 or John 07901692754.

LINK

2025 audit for East Wiltshire Link highlights the value of the organisation in monetary terms - £618,896 at min wage. Ramsbury LINK clocked up 10,000 miles in 2025, an average of 75 trips monthly. Drivers drove as far as Bath, Bristol, Oxford, Salisbury as well as shorter journeys. If you need a lift for medical appointment, shopping etc contact Penny on 520111. We need more drivers. If you could help please contact Penny. Mileage and light refreshments are paid. Thanks to all our drivers and Penny our co-ordinator.

ADVANCE NOTICES

Tuesday 2 June 6pm **Ramsbury Memorial Hall AGM**. Members of the public are very welcome to attend. The latest accounts are presented and the Chairman's reports on various aspects of hall management.

Sunday 7 June **Friends of Holy Cross Garden Party**, The Old Mill 2 to 5pm

Saturday 20 June **Ramsbury Street Fair** 11am to 3pm contact Ian Smith at oldtiff@hotmail.co.uk

Sunday 21 June **Ramsbury Open Gardens** 2 to 6pm. Details on ramsburymhortsoc.co.uk

Tuesday 23 June **FIFA Football World Cup 2026 comes to Ramsbury!** 7.30 pm in Ramsbury Memorial Hall. **England vs Ghana via a live stream on the big screen**. Ticket includes a delicious Jollof rice meal with Ghanaian inspired flavours and a welcome drink – with more available from the bar! There will also be a fun sweepstake before kick off and a small auction. Contact email keri@ateghana.org or call 07380 409666 for tables & tickets. Book a table for 10 for £150 or individuals £15 each. All proceeds will support **Action Through Enterprise** and its lifechanging work in rural Ghana.

Wednesday 24 June 7.30pm **Miracle Theatre** present "Peer Gynt – A Comedy of Terrors" in Ogbourne Maizey SN8 1RY. Tel 01672 512125 or email maizey50@gmail.com for tickets. More details in June Diary.

Friday 3 July **Friends of Holy Cross AGM**

Saturday 4 July **Bella Voce Summer Concert**

Edited by John Herbertson

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