

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Ramsbury & Axford Link Scheme Mon-Fri 9 – 5 Tel 520111	Ramsbury Library Mon 2 - 4pm. Wed 10am - 12pm Sat 10am – 12pm	1	2	3 LINK coffee morning 10.30am RBL Club	4
5 Village Walk The Square 2pm	6	7	8 Lunch Club	9 Flyer to Newbury	10 WI New Year Lunch Ramsbury Roxy Swan Lake	11
12	13	14 RAGS AGM Café Bella 6.45pm	15	16 WI Coffee Morning Royal British Legion Club 10.30am	17	18
19	20 Parish Council meeting	21	22 Lunch Club	23	24	25
26	27	28 Ramsbury Roxy Thelma	29	30	31	Charity Shop Tue, Wed, Thur & Sat 10 – 12.30. Tue & Thur 2 – 4.30
<u>Every Sunday</u> Holy Cross See notices Methodist Church See notices Tennis Club 10.am	<u>Every Monday</u> Short Mat Bowls Memorial Hall 2 – 4pm	<u>Every Tuesday</u> 1 st & 3 rd Tue Art Group Church Room 10-1 Flyer to Marlborough	<u>Every Wednesday</u> Flyer to Hungerford	<u>Every Thursday</u> Methodist Church Coffee Mornings at the Lychgate (not on 2 January)	<u>Every Friday</u> Ramsbury Silver Band Axford Village Hall 7.30- 9.30pm Flyer to Hungerford	<u>Every Saturday</u> Junior Football 10am <hr/> January 2025

The Village Diary is available on the Ramsbury website every month. See www.ramsbury.org.uk – What's on - Village Diary



Ramsbury and Axford Village Diary January 2025



May we have items for the February diary by 17 January.
Please email to diary@ramsbury.org

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS

NATURE NOTES by Peter Marren

A new species has arrived in the area but not a welcome one. A demon shrimp, *Dicterogammarus haemobophes*, was found by riverfly monitors in the River Dun at Hungerford. This is a large freshwater shrimp, up to an inch long (though more usually half that) with a striped body and some diagnostic conical projections on its tail. A native of the Black Sea area, it is increasing in British waters and is tolerant of poor water quality (which will suit it well). It is a voracious predator, killing and eating anything from fellow shrimps to small fish, and has the potential to cause a serious ecological downturn if it gets into our river, much as the (North American) signal crayfish has done. The demon shrimp lurks in the Kennet and Avon canal, probably disburged by boat traffic, and presumably got into the Dun when it overflowed. This demonic beast can survive out of water for short periods. Riverfly monitors are keeping their eyes peeled for it.

I have heard another theory about why woodland fungi have fared so poorly in recent years. Many of them are in a mutually beneficial relationship with trees, infecting their root-tips, and supplying the tree with certain minerals in exchange for sugar and water. Like all green plants, trees manufacture food by photosynthesis, which needs sunshine. It may be that it has been so cool and wet, that tree growth has been impeded, and that the leaves have manufactured less sugar than usual. That will affect their partner fungi too, and so, although the fungi can survive underground, maybe there wasn't enough growth to push up the fruit bodies we know as mushrooms and toadstools. Waterlogged roots would have a similar effect. I hate to trespass on Paul's preserves, but I must mention a remarkable bird that was seen on the manor lake in November. It was a female hooded merganser, a small duck with a narrow bill and a fuzzy, russet-brown head. It is a native of North America, and although the odd vagrant bird has been recorded from Britain, this one is presumably another escape from the manor's bird collection. Exciting to see, nonetheless.

BIRD NOTES by Paul Swan

One of the special sightings this month was to see sparrowhawk racing along just above the river before surprising a group of pigeons around the next bend. If it was after pigeons, then it must have been a female. Only one in ten sparrowhawk attacks is successful, and at such a speed, the hunter often comes to grief by hitting an obstacle. There are reports of them hitting windows, cars and flying through open doors! A few weeks ago, when the water meadows were flooded, I watched a heron standing motionless looking for fish. I gave up after twenty minutes and the bird had not moved at all. Their patience seems almost infinite, and as a strategy to get food, it seemed almost the exact opposite of the sparrowhawk.

In the garden we had the pleasure of watching a thrush taking a bath in our small pond. There was a lot of splashing and then then a very careful preening of every single wing feather. The blackbirds are busy flicking over the fallen leaves in search of a morsel or two, while the sparrows are still hurtling about. Although getting mature now, they always seem like an excited group of teenagers!

The robin, with its relatively large eyes feeds earlier and later than most other birds, and our local bird looks particularly fit and in fine fettle. Let's hope that our relatively mild weather continues into the New Year.

RAINFALL by Robert Osmond

Another month with more than average rainfall; we had 120 mm of rain in November. Most noticeable was the weekend of 23rd and 24th when we had 70 mm rain in two days. November, with an average of 98 mm, is rarely dry but can have wide variations. November 2021 was only 24.7 mm whereas 2009 was 163.5 mm. We also had a cold snap with some frost. It will be interesting to see if the old saying, "Ice in November to hold up a duck, the rest of the Winter will be as wet as muck" !

Recreation Centre 200 Club

We give away two prizes of £100 in the December draw so here are the results:

£100 each to Peter Randall and Graham Cherrington, £50 each to Iain Cowan, Katerina McMahon, Chris Morgan, Geraldine Smith and Linda Nicholson and £25 each to Ted Hiscocks, Stuart Millar, John Herbertson, Anna Swan, Lee Green and Hilary Hicklin.

A very Happy New Year to all our members and good luck for 2025!

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

Waste Collection

Please see Wiltshire Council Website Waste Collection calendar for changes to bin collections in January.

LINK

Don't forget LINK for appointments, shopping, hairdresser etc. Ring Penny on 520111 for details or to book a car. Small donations welcome but not essential.

Friday 3 January FREE coffee morning for clients and drivers Royal British Legion Club 10.30am.

Thanks to all our drivers and Happy New Year to clients and drivers.

Whitton Benefice

Happy New Year! Our team services this year will be on the first Sunday of every month at the new time of 10am. There is also an 8am Communion service in one of our churches on the other Sundays in the month.

A short (said) service of Holy Communion takes place each Thursday at 10am in Ramsbury.

A meditative service 'Reflective Spaces' takes place at St. Michael's Church, Aldbourne at 7pm on the fourth Wednesday of the month.

NOTE: our ZOOM services are currently on hold - please let Revd Beth Hutton know if instead you would like a home communion visit.

Sunday services in January:

5 January (Epiphany) at 10am in Chilton Foliat - Team Holy Communion.

12 January 8am Aldbourne - BCP Communion 9:30am Ramsbury - BCP Matins (both traditional language).

19 January 8am Chilton Foliat - BCP Communion (traditional language) 9:30am Ramsbury-Holy Communion

26 January 8am Ramsbury - BCP Communion (traditional language) 9:30am Ramsbury - Cafe Church

Looking ahead! 2 February (Candlemas) 10am Ramsbury - Team Holy Communion

Methodist Church in Aldbourne

Sunday 5 January 10.30am Service led by local Preacher.

Sunday 12 January 10.30am Service led by local Preacher.

Sunday 19 January 10.30am Covenant United Service led by Revd Stephen Skinner.

Sunday 26 January 10.30am Service led by local Preacher.

All are welcome to join us for Sunday worship at Aldbourne and Ramsbury Methodist Church. If you would like a lift please call on 521085.

Coffee Mornings at the Lychgate Room begin on Thursdays 9, 16, 23 and 30 January at 9.30am at the Happy New Year to you all 2025.

Blessings from your Church Steward - Julie Coe.

Lunch Club

Wednesdays 8 and 22 January Lunch Club in the Church Rooms Ramsbury

Ramsbury WI

Friday 10 January New Year Lunch 12.30pm in Ramsbury Memorial Hall. Tickets on sale until 31 December in Ramsbury Post Office or contact 520261. (No meeting on Thursday 2 January.)

Thursday 16 January Coffee Morning in the Royal British Legion Club, 10.30am onwards.

Ramsbury Roxy

Friday 10 January Swan Lake

Tuesday 28 January Thelma

Tickets and more information on www.ramsburyroxy.org or at the Ramsbury Post Office.

Ramsbury Flyer Regular Services

Marlborough every Tuesday leaving Ramsbury 9.45am arriving at 10.20. Returns from Marlborough at 12 noon. Bus passes can be used. Route varies – ring Janet for more and to book on 520682 or 07584 253117.

Newbury Thursday 9 January leaving Ramsbury Square at 11.30 am. Returning from Newbury at 2.30pm. Fare is £5 and seats must be booked with Janet (see above). Bus passes cannot be used.

Hungerford every Wednesday leaving Ramsbury at 10am. Bus passes may be used.

Fridays AMENDED SERVICE: passengers from Aldbourne must book their seats with Janet (see above) and will be collected at 9.45. The bus will then go to Ramsbury and take the usual route from 10am in Ramsbury to Hungerford. Bus passes may be used.

Ramsbury & Axford Golf Society

Tuesday 14 January RAGS 2025 AGM at 6.45 pm in the Café Bella.

Parish Council

Flooding and heavy rainfall are two things that will affect us now as a result of climate change. Please keep the tops of drains near you clear of leaves and debris. Remove if possible or it washes back. Wiltshire Council have recently made stringent efforts to respond to reports of blocked drains and there was a marked improvement in drainage during the weekend of Nov 23rd /24th. Please report blocked drains and we can arrange to have them cleared. Thanks to Alison and Bob Foale and Robert Copp who cleared drains in Mill Lane on the very wet evening of Nov 24th. Their action certainly improved the situation.

The Parish Council has aquasacs which expand in water to form a “sandbag”. They can be purchased £10 for 4. Contact the clerk on parishcouncil@ramsbury.org or 520045. In an emergency contact the Parish Council or a member of the emergency committee - details on www.ramsbury.org.uk or your emergency warden who has contact details.

On the evening of Monday 2 December a large amount of litter was left round the picnic tables at Whittonditch. It was cleared (not I suspect by the litter louts). There is no need for anyone to leave litter. There is a bin at the play area. If you know anyone who may have been involved please have a word with them.

There is an election for Parish Councillors in May this year. If you are interested in standing for election contact the clerk for details.

There will be a guided walk on Sunday 5 January meet 2pm in the Square - watch for details.

I would like to thank the present Councillors, and those who have retired this year, for their time and effort in keeping the village looking good and running smoothly.

The January Parish Council meeting is on 20 January 7.45pm in the Memorial Hall. All are welcome.

Happy New Year.

Ramsbury Community Charity Shop

We are beginning the second year in the new shop. 2024 proved to be very successful and we'd like to extend thanks to everyone who has helped us this year. Please keep donating and coming to buy - that is the secret of our success. Happy New Year to all our staff and customers. Sheila Glass & Mary Holdsworth

Allotments

As the new year gets under way we begin to look forward to Spring and another growing season.

If you are interested in a plot (full size £65, half £35, taster strip £10) please contact Denise Edwards on 07867921878 or allotments@ramsbury.org.

ADVANCE NOTICES

Thursday 6 February Flyer AGM at 7.30 pm in Lychgate Room, Ramsbury. All Welcome.

Edited by John Herbertson

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