

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Charity Shop Tue, Wed, Thur & Sat 10 – 12.30. Tue & Thur 2 – 4.30	1 Hort Soc talk Church rooms 7.45pm	2 Blue top wheelie-bins & Black boxes emptied	3 Flyer to Marlborough Tree 1.10pm <hr/> Lunch Club	4 Flyer to Buscot park. Tree 1.30pm <hr/> WI Church Room 7.30pm	5 Ramsbury Roxy Mem Hall 7.15pm	6 Spring Show Mem Hall 2pm
7	8	9 Black & Green top wheelie-bins/ Orange bags emptied	10	11 Flyer to Newbury Tree 11.30am	12 Butterfly Talk Mem Hall 7pm	13
14	15 Parish council Mem Hall 7.45pm	16 Blue top wheelie-bins & Black boxes emptied	17 Flyer to Marlborough Tree 1.10pm <hr/> Lunch Club	18	19	20
21	22	23 Black & Green top wheelie-bins/ Orange bags emptied	24	25	26 Ramsbury Roxy Mem Hall 7.15pm	27
28	29 Flyer to Rosebourne Tree 10am	30 Blue top wheelie-bins & Black boxes emptied		Flyer to Hungerford Every Wed & Fri The Square 1016 am	Ramsbury & Axford Link Scheme Mon-Fri 9 – 5 Tel 520111	Ramsbury Library free internet Mon 2-5pm. Wed 10-12pm Thur 2-5pm Sat 10-12
<u>Every Sunday</u> Holy Cross See notices Methodist Church See notices Tennis Club 10.am Café Bella Quiz Night 8.30pm	<u>Every Monday</u> Short Mat Bowls Memorial Hall 4-6pm	<u>Every Tuesday</u> Over 60s exercise Memorial Hall 10.30am Painting Group 1 st and 3 rd Tuesdays Church Room 10-1pm Bowls Club open evenings 6 pm at the Bowling Green starting Tuesday 16 April	<u>Every Wednesday</u> Ramsbury Lambs Memorial Hall 9.30- 11.30am Training Band Methodist Church 6.45pm Senior Band 7.45pm Axford Village Hall Bingo 2 nd and last Wednesday 7.30pm	<u>Every Thursday</u> Short Mat Bowls Memorial Hall 10am - 12 noon Tennis Club session 9.30 - 11.30 am Royal British Legion Club - Bingo 8pm Bowls Club open evenings 6 pm at the Bowling Green	<u>Every Friday</u> Seated Sports Church Rooms 11 am - 12 noon Senior Band Rehearsal Methodist Church 7.30pm	<u>Every Saturday</u> Junior Football 10am <hr/> April 2019



Ramsbury and Axford Village Diary

April 2019



May we have items for the May diary before 10 April.
They may be left at the Post Office or sent to diary@ramsbury.org

NATURE NOTES

The first flush of spring flowers is out and the bushes are greening by the day. The very word spring comes from the action of leaves 'springing' from their winter buds. What strikes you about our early flowers is how many of them are bright yellow: aconite, daffodil, dandelion, celandine and kingcup, followed a little later by cowslip and buttercup. All bright yellow – but why? One possible reason is that yellow is a bright colour, especially when it is also glossy, and so one that is likely to attract insect pollinators. More than any other colour, yellow seems almost to glow in the landscape. Another reason may be that pale colours warm up more quickly than dark ones. The dandelion flower actually follows the sun in its arc through the spring sky. If you were a pollinating bee, wouldn't you prefer a nice warm flower to a cold one?

Since Dutch elm disease struck in the 1970s, many of us have forgotten what a full-grown English elm looked like, tall and billowing and casting a deep shade by midsummer. But elms still survive in hedgerows and the edge of woods. Unfortunately they are no longer large trees but pathetic stunted ones, with thick corky bark where the beetle that spread the disease is still at work. Luckily the disease does not affect the roots, so although these young trees turn to dry sticks after twenty years or so, they will be replaced by other shoots as long as there are roots to carry them. Even these sad little trees do their job, putting out the perky reddish tufts that pass for flowers in March followed by masses of pale green winged seeds in April. And many of the insects that depend on elm for food seem to be able to make do on these scruffy survivors.

Many insects are about and busy now. One to look out for is the oil-beetle, a big, glossy, blue-black beast that you find on dry banks and paths in early spring. They cannot fly but simply plod along, safe from predators by their nasty, oily taste, but not, unfortunately, from bikes or careless human feet. The oil-beetle has an extraordinary life-style. Its tiny grub hitches a ride on a bee, and is taken into its burrow where it feeds on stored pollen and bee eggs. By the time it emerges the beetle is many times larger than its helpless bee hosts. If you spot one straying onto the road, do rescue it. *Peter Marren*

BIRD NOTES

A year ago the 'beast from the east' had covered the village and surrounding area in deep snow. Ten days ago we were enjoying the warmest February weather in history! Now we have gales and torrential showers. What is a poor bird to do?!

As usual, they all seem to be coping well. Our flock of sparrows is in fine fettle, as are the robins, blackbirds, wrens and various finches that have been busy at our feeders. At the Nature Reserve we have sighted a reed bunting and a beautiful bullfinch munching away on the new buds. There has also been a very tame seeming goldcrest pottering around at head height. I have had reports of chiffchaff and brambling nearby as well as a great white egret not far from Duck Bridge.

As you read this, the return of the swallows should be very imminent. Our first sighting of these has been in the first week of April for the last ten years. The house martins should also be with us at some point in the month and the swifts usually join us at the beginning of May. All are wonderful additions to the local scene and will make us feel that summer is around the corner. *Paul Swan*

RAINFALL

Rainfall for February 78.4 mm, 3.09 ins., it was the wettest since 2014. Average for month 90.17 mm, 3.55 ins. Most of the precipitation was in the first half, which included the 8 in. snowfall.

Say No To Litter

Help get our countryside tidy and litter free. Let's get out as the weather gets warmer and go for walks around our village and as we walk, pick up litter. We could win the Best Kept Village competition this year.

Recreation Centre 200 Club

£100 to Gilbert Mills, £50 to John Herbertson, Jayne Banovic, Graham Curtis, Ian Walker, Janet Hierons, £25 to each of Pat Coates, Rodney Owen-Jones, Sir John Sawers, Karen Rees, Andrea Curtis and Jen Stoye.

Lambing Open Day at Manor Farm

Mothering Sunday 31 March. 2.30 to 4.30pm. Please come and bring your families. Small admission fee, to raise funds for the Aldbourne Sports and Social Club. Tea/Cake stall in aid of St Michael's Churchyard.

Ramsbury Horticultural Society

Monday 1 April, 7.45pm, Church Rooms, Back Lane, Ramsbury, talk by Marcel Floyd on 'Climbers'.

Saturday 6 April, 2-4.15pm, Ramsbury Memorial Hall, High Street, Spring Show and Bowls Club Fete.

Golf Society

Tuesday 2 April. The next RAGS event is the David Dudley Trophy at Ogbourne Downs, followed by the Ramsbury Trophy at Marlborough on Monday 6th May. More details from Bob Osmond on 01672 520568.

Ramsbury Flyer

Wednesday 3 and 17 April. Flyer to Marlborough calling at Chilton Foliat at 1pm (booking required), Ramsbury 1.10pm and Aldbourne at 1.25pm. Returning from Marlborough at 2.40pm. Bus passes allowed.

Thursday 11 April. Flyer to Newbury leaving the tree at 11.30am and returning from Newbury at 2.30pm.

Thursday 4 April. Outing to Buscot Park National Trust, Faringdon, leaving the tree at 1.30pm. Fare £8.00.

Monday 29 April. Outing to Rosebourne Garden Centre/Nursery, Andover, leaving the tree at 10.00am. Fare £8.00. Please book with Janet Hunter on 520682.

Lunch Club

Wednesday 3 and 17 April. Lunch Club meets every two weeks in the Church Rooms. Anyone interested in joining please contact Diana Trickey on 520630 or Sheila Morgan on 520501.

Ramsbury WI

Thursday 4 April. Staff from Ramsbury Smokehouse will visit WI to talk about the enterprise. Competition for Bloom on the Month. Church Rooms, 7.30pm. Enquiries to 520261 / 520908 or WI@ramsbury.org.

Ramsbury Roxy

Friday 5 April. **KING OF THIEVES** Cert 15 1h 48m. Crime Drama. A true crime film about a crew of retired crooks who pull off a major heist in London's jewellery district. Based on infamous true events.

Friday 26 April. **BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY**. Cert 12A. Biography, Drama, Music. The story of the legendary band Queen and lead singer Freddie Mercury, leading up to their performance at Live Aid.

FFI ramsburyroxy.org and leaflets available from Post Office, Library, Memorial Hall and Crown & Anchor. Tickets £4 in advance or £4.50 on the door. Doors and bar open at 7.15pm, film starts at 8pm

Holy Cross and St. Michael's Axford

Sunday 7 April. (5th Sunday of Lent) 10am Ramsbury. Team Communion (CW)

Sunday 14 April. (Palm Sunday) 8am Ramsbury, Holy Communion. 9.30am Ramsbury Morning Worship

Sunday 18 April. Maundy Thursday 7pm Aldbourne. Last Supper & Communion

Sunday 19 April. Good Friday. 2pm, Ramsbury. Readings and Reflection

Sunday 21 April. Easter Day. 6:30am, Ramsbury. Sunrise Service (in the Wood on Spring Hill)

9:30am, Ramsbury. Holy Communion (CW). 11:15am, Axford. Holy Communion (CW)

Sunday 28 April (2nd Sunday of Easter) 9.30am, Ramsbury. Matins (BCP). 10:15am,

Butterfly Talk

Friday 12 April. Dr Susan Clarke and Peter Marren will be talking about butterflies, especially Ramsbury's rarity, the noble Duke of Burgundy. Ramsbury Memorial Hall at 7.30pm. Doors open at 7pm. Free event.

Methodist Church

Sunday 7 April. 10.30am service led by Revd Tony Barnes at Aldbourne.

Sunday 14 April. 10.30am Palm Sunday Service led by Rev Heather Cooper at Aldbourne.

Maundy Thursday 18 April. Communion at 10am Aldbourne.

Good Friday 19 April. Service of Reflection at Aldbourne Methodist Church

Easter Sunday 21 April. 9am led by Rev Heather Cooper at Aldbourne.

Sunday 28 April. 10.30am service led by local Preacher at Aldbourne.

Tuesday 16 April. Bible study, 2.45pm, at the home of Rosie Pauline in Oxford Street Ramsbury.

Coffee Mornings continue, 9am.

Parish Council

Monday 15 April. The next Parish Council meeting will take place in the Memorial Hall at 7.45pm. All meetings are open to the public, who are very welcome to attend.

Bedwyn Music Society Summer Concert

Friday 26 April. Pelleas Ensemble. Luba Tunnicliffe – viola, Henry Roberts – flute Oliver Wass – harp.

7.30pm in St. Mary's Church, Gt. Bedwyn. Admission: £15 (members £12) Children free. 01672 870970.

Swing Birds

Sunday 28 April. Following on from their success at the Wyvern in 2018, Swindon based all-female big band - Swing Birds - will be back. Email themower54@gmail.com Tel 01793 539353

Plant Fair

Sunday 28 April. The Carriage Driving Group is taking a break from running the plant fair this year but it will raise funds for Avebury Sports & Social Club. Avebury SN8 1RD. 10.30am – 3pm. Adults £5

THANKS

Our stamps contributed towards £155 being raised over the Christmas period. Thank you to everyone who has kindly taken the trouble to give me their used stamps to be sold for this eye research charity. Liz Jenkins

Susan Suchopar would like to thank all her many friends and neighbours in Ramsbury and beyond for the caring and thoughtful messages of support and flowers received on the tragic death of her son, Mark, at the beginning of December. They really helped through the most difficult of times.

ADVANCE NOTICES

Saturday 4 May **Treloar's Spring Fair**. Sunday 5 May Ramsbury **Boundary Walk**.

Ramsbury & Aldbourne Bowls Club. Sunday 5 May. **Open Day**, 10.30am, Recreation Centre Bowling Green. Opportunity for non-bowlers to try their hand. FFI Lyn Cookson 520618 or Keith Evill 529642

Ramsbury Horticultural Society. Saturday 11 May, 9.30–11.00am, **Spring Plant Sale**, at Millstream, High Street (Memorial Hall if wet). Monday 13 May, 7.45pm, Church Rooms, Back Lane, Ramsbury, **talk** by Charlotte Fyfe

Saturday 11 May Ramsbury Centre **Auction of Promises** Sunday 12 May Ramsbury Pre-school **Fun Run & Tennis Open Day**. Sunday 19 May Friends of Holy Cross **Garden Party**.

Friday 7 June The Ravensbury Players **quiz** at the Memorial Hall pop it in your diary. Details to follow - look out for posters and next months Diary.

Sunday 9 June 2019, we will be holding a **commemoration service** at the airfield, led by the Revd. Canon Simon Weeden. We will open two memorials, one for the fallen of World Wars and one to remember those who served and took part in the D.Day landings. FFI ramsburyremembrancewood@gmail.com

Axford Gardens Open. Sunday 23 June 14.00 till 17.00 followed by a concert in St. Michaels Church.

Edited by Emma Jeffery

Printed by Whitton Benefice, Ramsbury