

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Flyer outing to IKEA	<b>3</b> Blue top wheelie-bins & Black boxes emptied	<b>4</b> Flyer to <u>Marlborough</u> Lunch Club in the Church Rooms	<b>5</b> Ramsbury WI Annual Meeting Church Rooms 7.30pm	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> RBL Six nations Ireland v Italy England v Wales
<b>8</b> Ramsbury WI Chums' Day Church Rooms 3 to 4.30pm	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Black & Green top wheelie-bins emptied	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> <u>Flyer to Newbury</u> RHS Annual quiz 7.30pm Lambourn	<b>13</b> Ramsbury Roxy Memorial hall 7.15pm for 8pm	<b>14</b> RBL Six nation Super Saturday Fish and chips
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Parish Council meeting in Lychgate House 7.45pm	<b>17</b> Blue top wheelie-bins & Black boxes emptied	<b>18</b> Flyer to <u>Marlborough</u> Lunch Club in the Church Rooms	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Start of the Great British Spring Clean	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Black & Green top wheelie-bins emptied	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Flyer to Royal Wootton Bassett	<b>27</b> RBL live jukebox music	<b>28</b> Swing Band Concert Holy Cross
The Ravensbury Players present The Lady in the Van						
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Blue top wheelie-bins & Black boxes emptied	<b>Flyer to Hungerford</b> The Square every Wed 10.06 am Fri 10.16 am	Ramsbury & Axford <b>Link Scheme</b> Mon-Fri 9 – 5 Tel 520111	<b>Ramsbury Library</b> <b>Free internet</b> Mon 2-5pm. Wed 10- 12pm Thur 2-5pm. Sat 10-12.	<b>Charity Shop</b> 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  Café Bella Quiz Night 8pm	<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 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays Church Room 10-1pm	<u>Every Wednesday</u> Ramsbury Lambs Mem Hall 9.30 to 11.30  Bingo 2 <sup>nd</sup> and last Wednesday 7.30pm	<u>Every Thursday</u> Short Mat Bowls Memorial Hall 10am - 12 noon Royal British Legion Club - Bingo 8pm	<u>Every Friday</u> Ramsbury Silver Band Axford Village Hall 7.30- 9.30pm	<u>Every Saturday</u> Junior Football 10am  <b>March 2020</b>

The Village Diary is available on the Ramsbury website every month. See [www.ramsbury.org.uk](http://www.ramsbury.org.uk) – What's on - Village Diary



# Ramsbury and Axford Village Diary

## March 2020



May we have items for the April diary before 10 March.  
They may be left at the Post Office or sent to [diary@ramsbury.org](mailto:diary@ramsbury.org)

### NATURE NOTES by Peter Marren

The slow brightening of our late winter landscape had begun by late January. The low sun lights up the yellow lambs-tail catkins of hazel like Christmas candles. Snowdrops were reaching their peak by late January, and the first glossy yellow celandines were already showing on banks in full sun. The winter aconites put on a good show on some of our soggy lawns and in the churchyard. This is the first wild flower of the year, and I think one of the loveliest - its golden-yellow, anemone-like flower cupped by a bract that resembles an Elizabethan ruff. Its rather silly Latin name *Eranthis hyemalis* means 'spring flower, winter flower'. In fact it is a true winter flower, opening early in the New Year. The name aconite is derived from *Aconitum*, a distantly related plant better known as monkshood. And like it, our winter aconites are poisonous.

Some of the earliest plants appear on wall tops around the village. Brick walls are crowned by neat hummocks of moss bristling with fine silver hairs. This is the so-called Wall Screw-moss, *Tortula tortuosa*. Normally green, it turns a striking shade of ginger-brown in dry weather – for brick walls dry out and warm up quickly in sunshine. Near the Paddocks it is accompanied by a pretty pink cyclamen, which I think is *Cyclamen coum*, a native of the Caucasus, popular because it provides welcome colour in the dark days of winter.

Eddie Star told me that our now resident otters have had at least one impact on the river fish. Pike, which you could once occasionally spot in quiet parts of the river and its tributary brooks, seem to have almost disappeared. Apparently they are much easier to catch than trout.

### BIRD NOTES by Paul Swan

Having been to the Somerset levels to see the starling murmuration, (only half a million of them this year!) we were also delighted to see cattle egrets. They have started to nest there over the last few years, and are beginning to spread out. Then, at the beginning of February, we thought that we had spotted a large group, with cattle, between Axford and Minal! Alas, on closer inspection, and with a little help, they turned out to be little egrets!

Fingers crossed that the cattle egrets will make it here in due course.

Despite the very variable weather, the amount of birdsong is increasing and we have seen signs of early nest building. Research has shown that in many species it is the older, more experienced birds that nest early. They are often sitting on eggs at the same time as the younger generation of the same species starts nest building. Regular early nesters include tawny owls, mistle thrushes and rooks, all of which are likely to be sitting on eggs by mid-March.

During March almost all of our songbirds will start building nests, so look out for tits, robins and finches gathering materials for the big build. If you are very lucky, you may spot a long tailed tit gathering feathers to line its extraordinary nest.

### RAINFALL

Rainfall for January 91.7mm, 3.61 ins., very near the average. We have had a very wet 6 months with 696.2 mm, 27.4 ins. It will be interesting to see how the next 6 months are.

### Stop Press!

**Tuesday 25 February** is Shrove Tuesday, so come and enjoy pancakes and refreshments in the Church Rooms, 2.30 to 4pm. All welcome. Free, but donations to Holy Cross welcome.

## **Recreation Centre 200 Club**

The February results are £100 to Sharon Marsh, £50 each to Ronnie Stronge, Sue Keen, Caroline Springfield, Chris Clark and Eric Jennings and £25 each to Mike Dyer, Sir Geoff Owen, Mark Hayley, Steve Standage, Pat Pope and Allan Davidson.

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)

## **Dog Mess – a message from Ramsbury & Axford Parish Council**

At the last Parish Council meeting we reviewed correspondence from one family who went to put flowers on the grave of a loved one in Ramsbury Churchyard and were horrified to find dog mess on the grave. There are signs at the entrances to the churchyard to ask dog owners to keep their dogs on a lead and we ask you all to please respect this. The highest fine for allowing your dog to mess and not clear it up is £1000. We know that most dog owners do pick up and for that we thank you. Please help us stop those who don't.

## **Ramsbury Nature Reserve - Urgent!!**

Volunteers needed to help cut the grass paths around the Ramsbury Nature Reserve, using a wheeled, petrol driven brush cutter. Each cutting only takes about an hour a month, May to September. Enjoyable work with other volunteers. Training & equipment provided. Please contact Chris Morgan on 520501 or 07817 732068.

## **The Crown & Anchor – message from Sarah and Mike**

Meals now served Tuesday to Saturday evenings from 6 to 9 pm and Sunday 12 noon to 4 pm. We also offer takeaway fish & chips, sausage & chips, burgers & pizza (cooked in our pizza oven). Hot & soft drinks are available. We are holding an early evening BBQ with live music on the day of the Ramsbury Street Fair.

On another note any ideas anyone has for the banks outside the pub would be appreciated as would any help in getting them up and together. Look forward to seeing you soon, Sarah and Mike.

## **Baydon Table Tennis**

Baydon Table Tennis Club is recruiting new members. Meetings held are in Baydon Village Hall in Manor Lane on Friday evenings 7 to 9 pm. There is no membership fee. Adults pay £3 per session students £1.50. Your first night will be free and a table tennis bat supplied to get you started.

If interested please contact Bernie Gribble 01672 540461 email [berniegribble.yahoo.co.uk](mailto:berniegribble.yahoo.co.uk)

## **The Great British Spring Clean**

The Great British Spring Clean is taking place from Friday 20 March through to Sunday 13 April. Please help by collecting any litter you find when you're out walking and please help to keep the front of your homes litter free.

## **Holy Cross Ramsbury, St. Michael's Axford & Team Services**

Sunday 1 March 8am Ramsbury Team Holy Communion (BCP) 10am Froxfield Team HC (CW)

Sunday 8 March 8am Ramsbury Holy Communion (BCP) 9:30am Ramsbury Informal Morning Worship

Sunday 15 March 9:30am Ramsbury Holy Communion (CW) *NOTE: The Annual Local Church Meeting (ALCM) will be held in the church after this service.* 4pm Ramsbury Evensong (BCP)

Sunday 22 March 9:30am Ramsbury Mothering Sunday Holy Communion (CW)

Sunday 29 March (NB Summer Time) 8am Ramsbury HC (BCP) 6pm Aldbourne Team Choral Evensong {HC: Holy Communion, CW: Common Worship, BCP: Book of Common Prayer}

## **Methodist Church**

Sunday 1 March 10.30am service led by local Preacher (Aldbourne)

Sunday 8 March 10.30am service led by local Preacher (Aldbourne)

Sunday 15 March 10.30am service led by Revd Stephen Skinner (Aldbourne)

Sunday 22 March 10.30am Mothering Sunday service led by Revd Tony Barnes . ( Aldbourne)

Tuesday 24 March 2.30pm Bible Study at the home Rosie Pauline in Oxford street.

Sunday 29 March 10.30am service led by local Preacher. (Aldbourne)

Coffee morning every Thursday from 9am at The Lychgate, Ramsbury.

## **Ramsbury Flyer**

Wed 4 and 18 March 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 may be used.

Thursday 12 March Flyer to Newbury leaving the tree at 11.30am and returning from Newbury at 2.30pm.

**Flyer Outings:** IKEA, Reading on Monday 2 March leaving the Tree in Ramsbury at 11am. Fare £10. Royal Wootton Bassett on Thursday 26 March, leaving the Tree in Ramsbury at 11.30am. Fare £8.

For more information and to book ring Janet on 520682, or 07584253117.

## **Ramsbury Lunch Club**

Wednesdays 4 and 18 March - Lunch Club in the Church Rooms, Back Lane. New guests wanted. Anyone interested in joining please contact Diana Trickey on 520630 or email [diana@the.trickeys.com](mailto:diana@the.trickeys.com)

## **Ramsbury WI**

Thursday 5 March Ramsbury WI Annual Meeting at 7.30pm in the Church Rooms. This marks 100 years from the formation of our Institute. There will be a display of old records and photos and other memorabilia. We shall have an indoor picnic with a celebration cake after the business, and members are asked to say a few words about their favourite WI memory. Enquiries to [WI@ramsbury.org](mailto:WI@ramsbury.org) or 520261.

Sunday 8 March *Chums' Day* Tea party in the Church Rooms from 3 to 4.30pm. Cards, scrabble, dominoes, jigsaws, plenty of time for chat, plus tea and cake. Open to anyone who would like some company on a Sunday afternoon. No charge but donations welcome. Enquiries to 520908.

## **Ramsbury Royal British Legion**

Saturday 7 March Six nation Ireland v Italy 2.15pm and England v Wales 4.45pm

Sunday 8 March Scotland v France 3pm

Super Saturday 14 March Doors open at 1pm Fish and chips **can be pre ordered.**

Friday 27 March live jukebox music night starts at 7.30pm

## **Ramsbury Horticultural Society**

Thursday 12 March 7.30pm Annual quiz against Lambourn Valley Horticultural Society in Lambourn Memorial Hall, Oxford Street, Lambourn RG17 8XP.

## **Ramsbury Roxy**

Friday 13 March **Mrs Lowry and Son** Cert PG. This depicts the relationship between L.S. Lowry, one of Britain's most iconic artists, and his mother Elizabeth, with whom he lived until her death. Timothy Spall plays Lowry and Vanessa Redgrave his overbearing mother. Full programme on our website: [ramsburyroxy.org](http://ramsburyroxy.org) and leaflets available from Post Office, Library, Memorial Hall and Crown & Anchor. Tickets £4 in advance from Ramsbury Post Office and Midway Stores until 1pm on film day or £4.50 on the door. Doors and bar open at 7.15pm, film starts at 8pm.

## **Parish Council**

Monday 16 March Parish Council meeting in Lychgate House at 7.45pm.

All meetings are open to the public, who are very welcome to attend.

## **The Ravensbury Players**

Wednesday 25 to Saturday 28 March The Ravensbury Players present *The Lady in the Van* by Alan Bennett. Memorial Hall, Ramsbury. Doors and bar open 7pm curtain up at 7.45.

Tickets are only £10 and are available from the Ramsbury post office.

## **Swing Band Concert and Dance with the Wantage Big Band in aid of Epilepsy Action and Friends of Holy Cross**

Saturday 28 March in Holy Cross. Doors open 7.30pm. Swing to Listen 8 to 8.45pm. Swing to Listen and Dance 9.15 to 10pm. £15 includes Interval Canapés. Tickets available from Ramsbury Post Office, Ian Smith 07977 473975 or Kevin Jauncey 07973 237549. For more information email Kevin Jauncey - [kevin.jauncey@lavendercomms.co.uk](mailto:kevin.jauncey@lavendercomms.co.uk)

## **ADVANCE NOTICES**

Saturday 4 April 2 to 4.15pm **RHS Spring Show and Bowls Club Fete** Ramsbury Memorial Hall

Monday 6 April 7.45pm **Ramsbury Horticultural Society talk on Climbers** in the Church Rooms

Wednesday 8 April **Ramsbury & Axford Golf Society** David Dudley Trophy at Ogbourne Downs  
To enter, please email [osmond48@btinternet.com](mailto:osmond48@btinternet.com) or phone 01672 520568.

Saturday 25 April **Treloar's Spring Fair** at 10am in the Memorial Hall, Ramsbury. Please contact Hilary Hicklin on 01672 520899 if you wish to contribute in any way with donations or by helping us on the day.

Saturday 13 June **Ramsbury Street Fair 2020**. All Clubs and Societies are invited to take a pitch and anyone wishing to sell their wares or promote what they do can also take a pitch. There will be entertainment for adults and kids, food, a bar. All enquiries to Ian Smith - [oldtiff@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:oldtiff@hotmail.co.uk)