



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
April 2024	1 Easter Monday 	2 Art Group Church Room 10-1pm Roxy - One Life RBL 7pm for 7.30pm start	3	4 WI Meeting Church Room 7.30pm	5	6
	7 See text for church services	8	9 RAGS Event Ogbourne Downs	10	11	12
14 See text for church services Roxy - Barbie RBL 4.30pm for 5pm start	15	16 Art Group Church Room 10-1pm	17 Lunch Club Church Room 12-2pm	18 WI Coffee Morning RBL 10.30am onwards	19	20 Freshers Day Mem Hall 10-12.30pm
21 See text for church services	22	23 St Georges Day 	24	25	26	27 Premium Banana Mem Hall 7pm
Sustainable option - read me @ www.ramsbury.org.uk – What's on – Village Diary						
28 See text for church services	29 Cake & Co Methodist Hall Aldbourne 10.30-12pm	30	Charity Shop Tue, Wed, Thur & Sat 10 – 12.30 Tue & Thur 2 – 4.30	Link Scheme Mon – Fri 9 -5 Tel 520111	Library – Free Internet Mon 2–4 Wed 10–12, Sat 10–12	
Holy Cross Church see text for services Methodist Church see text for services Tennis Club 10.00am	<u>Every Monday</u> Short Mat Bowls Memorial Hall 2.00 - 4pm	<u>Every Tuesday</u> Flyer to Marlborough	<u>Every Wednesday</u> Flyer to Hungerford	<u>Every Thursday</u> Coffee Morning Lychgate 9.30am <hr/> HC Communion service 10am <hr/> Phoenix Pizza Memorial Hall Car Park 4.45-8pm	<u>Every Friday</u> Ramsbury Silver Band Axford Village Hall 7.30- 9.30pm <hr/> Flyer to Hungerford	<u>Every Saturday</u> Junior Football 10.00am <hr/> April 2024



Ramsbury and Axford Village Diary

April 2024

May we have items for the next diary by the 17th of the month.

Please email to diary@ramsbury.org



Nature Notes by *Peter Marren*

The Muntjac is a small, stocky deer with a characteristically hunched appearance, with its hind-quarters higher than its shoulders. Its legs are spindly, and the feet tiny: the hoof-prints, called slots, which you see in the mud are less than an inch across. These animals are native to China, and all the many thousands of British Muntjacs (possibly more than there are in China!) are descended from animals escaping from Woburn Park a century ago. I think our Muntjacs are becoming more common, unlike other deer they breed all year round and bolder too. One animal has taken to raiding my neighbours' gardens and biting off the flowers, primulas being a favourite. When it sees me, we stare at one another for a while, before the Muntjac heads off, at its own leisurely pace, and seemingly unafraid. If you spot a dead buck (male) Muntjac by the road – regrettably they are common road casualties – take a look at the teeth. Its canines are remarkably long, like curved daggers, reminiscent of a tiger! But because it's a herbivore, we call them tusks, not fangs!

By early March the slow greening of spring had begun, despite the continued cold, soggy ground and the nip of late frosts. Mosses were at their best, bright green and swollen with rain, and in damp spots under the trees you could find the little red bowls of Scarlet Elf-cups on rotting twigs. They say that the wood-elves drink from these fungal cups at night. Let me know if you see any!

It may have been the mildest February on record, but mild doesn't equate with warm, and under our grey skies I have seen fewer bees than usual, and hardly any butterflies. Any butterflies and bumblebees you see in February and early March have hibernated, and there's evidence that mild, wet winters are worse for them than cold, relative dry ones. What you do see a lot of at this time of year are tiny gnats, flying in a cloud known as a mating swarm. They don't bite. They don't even feed, but merely use up their tiny store of energy in the dance before, the lucky ones having mated, they all die. The female gnat dies too, immediately after laying her eggs. The solitary bat some saw flying by day in February might at least have enjoyed a good supper of gnats!

Bird Notes by *Paul Swan*

What a magical time this is, as we transition from Winter to Spring. In the last few days we have seen barn owls foraging, red kites on the nest, blackbirds and thrushes singing their hearts out and a pair of blue tits hurtling through the treetops in full flirtation.

The red kite will be laying eggs now and it will take thirty days for these to hatch. The chicks will be fully fledged after a further fifty days but usually stay around the nest for twenty more days. This means that the adult birds spend over one hundred days nesting!

The barn owl will also be sitting on eggs now. Unusually there can be up to three weeks delay between the first and last eggs being laid. The chicks hatch over a similar period, which reduces the demand for food and spreads it over a longer period.

The family flocks of long tailed tits have now broken up and the pairs are established. Now they start on a three-to-four-week marathon building their extraordinary and beautiful nests. Constructed of moss, lined with thousands of feathers, bound together with spider's web. The female will then lay up to ten eggs. Each egg is not much bigger than a peanut and weighs less than a paperclip!

Other sightings of the month have included a large egret, mandarin ducks, starlings, and gadwall, while Peter has a noisy flock of siskins in his garden.

Rainfall by *Robert Osmond*

An incredibly wet February with 197mm of rain, making it the wettest on our records which go back to 1968 and almost three times the average for February. The last eight months have all been above, or well above, the average monthly rainfall, with a total of 1118.3mm. Compare this to the annual average of 886mm. and we can see why the water level is so high. February last year was only 16.5mm showing how much weather can vary from one year to another.

Recreation Centre 200 Club

Here are the 200 Club results for March: £100 to Martin Vigors, £50 to each of Jen Stoyale, Trudi Taylor, Dave Arnold, Mike Franklin and Peter Cheney and £25 to each of Tony Prior, Paul Foley, Marina Souter, Georgina Smith, Susan Suchopar and Alex Scott.

To join, contact Ian Smith 07977 473975 or oldtiff@hotmail.co.uk

Holy Cross and the Whitton Parish

Sunday 7 th April: 11:00am	TEAM communion in St Michael's, Aldbourne
Sunday 14 th April: 8:00am	BCP Holy Communion (Traditional language)
9:30am	BCP Sung Matins 11:30am ZOOM informal worship
Sunday 21 st April: 9:30am	Informal Worship 11:30am ZOOM informal worship
Sunday 28 th April: 9:30am	Holy Communion 11:30am ZOOM informal worship

We continue with our new patterns of worship - an 'all-together' Team service on the first Sunday, with alternative styles of worship available in each of the churches in the Parish on other Sundays. There will be a mixture of traditional and modern language Communion & Matins services, as well as our Zoom services and less formal opportunities such as 'Muddy Church' (an outdoor experience). More details of services in other churches can be found in the Whitton Ways magazine and on our website whittonteam.org.uk

For Zoom services: 0203 481 5240 or 0208 080 6591 ZOOM Meeting ID: 948 3407 2630 Passcode: 343860

Aldbourn Methodist Church Service

Sunday 7 th April	10.30am Service led by a local Preacher.
Sunday 14 th April	10.30am Service led by a local Preacher.
Sunday 21 st April	10.30am Service led by Revd. Geoffrey Floyd
Sunday 28 th April	10.30am Service led by Revd. Mark Barrett.

All are welcome to join us at our weekly services in Aldbourne.

Coffee mornings are held every Thursday in the Lychgate Room, Ramsbury from 9.30am onwards.

The Revamp Clothing Sale held on 16th and 17th February raised the fantastic sum of £4,053 so far! Thanks to all concerned for all the hard work and to those who supported the event. The proceeds will go to the Ukraine Appeal and the Aldbourne and Ramsbury Methodist Chapel.

Cake & Company is re-starting on the 29th April 2024 from 10.30am-12pm at the Methodist Hall, Aldbourne, and then on the first Monday of each month. If you can offer help, please contact Sue Rodd on 54157 or revsuerodd@btinternet.com We need drivers, bakers and help with PR, as well as helpers at actual sessions.

Ramsbury WI

Thursday 4th April monthly meeting at 7.30pm in the Church Rooms, Back Lane. Sallyann Fisher will give a demonstration of sheepdog training, helped by her four well-behaved dogs. Visitors welcome. Any enquiries to 520908. Thursday 18th April coffee morning at the Royal British Legion Club, 10.30am onwards. Saturday 20th April Ramsbury WI will be at the Freshers' Day in Ramsbury Memorial Hall if you want to discover more about us.

Treloar Trust

The annual Picture Quiz is now on sale at Ramsbury Post Office, or ring Hilary Hicklin on 01672 520899. Proceeds go to the Treloar Trust, a charity for the care and education of severely handicapped children.

Roxy

Roxy will be presenting: Tuesday April 2nd, One Life at the Royal British Legion. 7pm for 7:30 start. Sunday April 14th, Barbie at the Royal British Legion. 4:30pm for 5pm start.

Please buy tickets early from www.ramsburyroxy.org or the Ramsbury post office.

Visit www.ramsburyroxy.org for up-to-date information.

Ramsbury & Axford Golf Society

The indoor bowls will continue in April and the Bowls Club evenings will be starting on Tuesday 9th and Thursday 11th April. The first event for 2024, the Spring Trophy on Tuesday April 9th at Ogbourne Downs. Further details from Bob Osmond on 01672 520568 or osmond48@btinternet.com

Lunch Club

The date for the Lunch Club this month is Wednesday 17th April. All queries to Diana on 520630. We are always looking for drivers and helpers to join us.

LINK

If you need a lift for medical appointments, hairdressing, shopping etc call Penny on 520111.

Ramsbury Flyer Community Bus

Tuesdays Flyer to **Marlborough**, leaving Ramsbury at 9.45am (route varies), returning 12 noon. Bus passes can be used.

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

Wednesdays and Fridays Flyer to **Hungerford** leaving Ramsbury at 10am. Bus passes may be used.

Surgery transport is available on Tuesday afternoons and Thursday mornings. Please book through the Receptionist at the Surgery.

Flyer Trips

Monday 15th April: shopping trip to Cribbs Causeway. Leaving The Square at 10am and returning mid-afternoon. Fare £12.

Thursday 25th April: market day in Devizes, lots to see and do. Leaving The Square at 11.30am and returning mid-afternoon. Fare £8.

Monday 13th May: Hillier Garden Centre in Newbury. Leaving at 11.30am Super place to go, with large choice of plants, concession stores (including Cotton Traders) and lovely restaurant. Fare only £5.

Thursday 30th May: Buscot Park. Wonderful place to visit in springtime. Leaves at 1.15 pm : Fare £8.

Please call Janet for more information and to book your seats: 01672 520682 or 07584 253117.

Allotments

Spring is a busy time on the allotments and things will start to buzz when it stops raining. If you would like an allotment of whatever size from raised bed to full plot, please contact Denise Edwards on 07867 921878 for details. Sadly, we will no longer do bulk purchase of compost, 24 bags were stolen from the pallets in the Paddocks within four hours of delivery on March 7th.

Ramsbury Community Charity Shop

The shop is doing well in the new premises and we look forward to welcoming those who haven't visited us yet. We will give £300 to each of our six organisations this quarter. Thanks to our (now warm) volunteers and generous donors. Come and see our new look and pick up a bargain. Sheila Glass Mary Holdsworth

Parish Council

After the Fresher's Fair on 20th April, there will be a volunteer event in the Memorial Hall 6pm to 7.30pm. The Parish Council is inviting anyone who volunteers in the village for drinks and nibbles as a thank you for your efforts. We will be contacting organisations for numbers but if you think you may be missed please contact parishcouncil@ramsbury.org if you would like to attend.

Two residents have requested that we consider a 20mph speed limit in the village. We are pursuing the matter with a view to reviewing the cost/benefit.

On February 28th there was a police consultation in the Lychgate, no-one attended for the second time.

We are looking to co-opt a new Councillor. If you are interested, please contact as above.

Parish Council meetings are on the third Monday of the month at 7.45pm in the Memorial Hall - all are welcome. Minutes and agenda are on our website www.ramsbury.org.uk

Advance Notices

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| 5 th May | Boundary Walk, watch out for further details |
| 12 th May | Fun Run Rec Centre 10.30am / Friends of Holy Cross Garden Party, Parliament Piece 2.30pm |
| 18 th May | Beer Festival Ramsbury Brewery, 12pm – 9pm |
| 31 st May | D-Day 80: 'Ramsbury at War' talk, Memorial Hall 7pm |
| 1 st June | Ramsbury Big Country Fair, Rookery Field, 10.30am – 11pm |
| 2 nd June | D-Day 80: Traditional Crean Tea, The Square, 2pm – 4pm |
| 4 th June | D-Day 80: Celebrating the Women of WW2, Café Bella |
| 6 th June | D-Day 80: National Beacon lighting, Spring Hill, 9.30pm |
| 8 th June | D-Day 80: RAF Ramsbury Community Faye, 11am – 3pm |
| 8 th June | D-Day 80: 1940's Tea Dance, Memorial Hall, 8pm till late |

Edited by Karen Rees

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