

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Ramsbury & Axford <b>Link Scheme</b> Mon-Fri 9 – 5 Tel 520111	<b>Ramsbury Library</b> Mon 2-4pm.Wed 10-12pm Sat 10-12		<b>Ramsbury Charity Shop</b> Tue, Wed, Thur & Sat 10 – 12.30. Tue & Thur 2 – 4.30	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Ramsbury Roxy Rye Lane RBL club 7 for 7.30	<b>6</b> Lunch Club	<b>7</b> <u>Flyer outing</u> WI meeting 7.30pm	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Flyer to Newbury	<b>15</b> Inside Ramsbury Manor talk Memorial Hall 7.15pm	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Flyer outing to Mere	<b>19</b> Parish Council meeting 7.45pm Memorial Hall	<b>20</b> Lunch Club	<b>21</b> WI coffee morning RBL Club 10.30am	<b>22</b> Roxy NTL The Motive and the Cue. Mem Hall	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> WI tea party Church Rooms 2.30pm to 4pm	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Flyer Lunch outing Castle & Ball Marlborough	<b>29</b> Good Friday	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> Easter Sunday Clocks to B S T	<b>The Village Diary is available on the Ramsbury website every month. See <a href="http://www.ramsbury.org.uk">www.ramsbury.org.uk</a> – What's on - Village Diary</b>					
<u>Every Sunday</u> Holy Cross See text for services  Methodist Church See text for services  Tennis Club 10.am	<u>Every Monday</u>  Short Mat Bowls Memorial Hall 2 - 4pm	<u>Every Tuesday</u>  Flyer to Marlborough	<u>Every Wednesday</u>  Flyer to Hungerford	<u>Every Thursday</u> Coffee Morning Lychgate 9.30am  Phoenix Pizza Memorial Hall Car Park 4.45 to 8 pm	<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/> <b>March 2024</b>



## Ramsbury and Axford Village Diary March 2024



May we have items for the April diary before 17 March.

Please email to [diary@ramsbury.org](mailto:diary@ramsbury.org)

Read the Diary on-line @ [www.ramsbury.org.uk](http://www.ramsbury.org.uk)

### **NATURE NOTES** by *Peter Marren*

Perhaps surprisingly, many fungi appear during the winter, especially the sort that form patches on tree branches and logs. Margaret Swan has been photographing some of them for me to try and identify. One I'm fairly confident of is *Fomitiporia*, the 'elbowpatch crust', whose oval form and smooth surface resembles those leather patches on men's tweed jackets. Another, which rejoices in the name of *Cylindrobasidium* or 'tear dropper' (I'm not sure why), is pinkish with a white border and forms mini brackets emerging from the crust like little waves. We have yet to find the remarkable 'hair ice', a fungus which looks like a well-combed tuft of Santa's beard caught on a branch. Appropriately, it grows best in frosty weather.

Play was suspended on 6th February to rescue a pair of oil beetles that had blundered onto the tennis court. This is an exceptionally early date for these magnificent flightless beetles. Frog spawn was spotted in at least one garden pond on 10th February after a croaking chorus during the night heralded their return. By then, at least two bumblebees were about on mild, sunny days, the buff-tailed bumblebee, and the smaller, appropriately named, early bumblebee, whose 'tail' is coloured bright orange. Both will have been queens, emerging from hibernation, and visiting gardens, verges and the churchyard in their search for energy-building nectar.

One of their favourite flowers is winter heliotrope, which has kidney-shaped leaves and pinkish clusters of strongly scented flowers, said to smell like liquorice or vanilla or cherry pie. In the interests of science, I took a good sniff at the few flowers I could find near the church and can categorically state that our winter heliotropes smell just like marzipan with a touch of honey. No wonder the bees love them. By the time you read this, its close relative, the butterbur, will be putting forth its pagoda-like flowers on wet, open ground near the river and its streams. Oddly, the flowers of both it and the winter heliotrope are all male. The bees will collect their nectar and pollen to make honey, but they won't be pollinating the flower. Instead, the plants get around by underground runners.

### **BIRD NOTES** by *Paul Swan*

Gardening on a recent warm day, I was accompanied by a pair of robins. One was much braver than the other and came within a couple of feet, checking whether I had turned up any tasty morsels. These two are clearly a pair and will shortly be nest building, ready for egg laying in the second half of March. Birds as different as tawny owls, mistle thrushes and rooks are also early starters and will be sitting on eggs by the middle of the month.

Our golden plovers are still with us on Spring Hill, but in smaller groups than before. We have also seen many flocks of fieldfare and redwing around the village. In the last month there have been a growing number of flocks of starlings around us. In bright sunlight these look stunning. A very special sighting on Spring Hill was a flock of fifty lapwings heading west. It is many years since we saw these nesting here, but fingers crossed.

We also have our fingers crossed that we will have wrens in one of our nest boxes, as we did last year. The male wren will build up to ten nest 'shells' known as 'cock nests', and then try to get a female to accept one of them. They will then work together to complete the nest before egg laying starts in early April.

## **RAINFALL by Robert Osmond**

Our wet weather continues, with January rainfall of 112.1 mm, now the seventh month in a row above average. The month started very wet, then a cold, dry snap followed by another wet spell. February has started dry; will we see a repeat of last February when we had only 16 mm of rain ?

### **Recreation Centre 200 Club February Results**

£100 to Sue Barnes, £50 each to Caroline Springfield, Jill Doore, Sue Keen, Anna Swan and Victoria Gray  
£25 each to Sarah Condie, Charles Gardner, Ethel Hutchings, Ian Annand, Dinah Stephens and Chris Clark.  
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)

### **Whitton Benefice Services**

Sunday 3 March 11:00am Team Communion at Chilton Foliat  
Sunday 10 March 8:00am BCP Communion, 9:30am Mothering Sunday service for all ages  
11:30am ZOOM informal service  
Sunday 17 March 9:30am BCP Matins, 11:30am ZOOM informal service  
Sunday 24 March 9:30am Palm Sunday Communion, 11:30am ZOOM informal service  
Special services for Holy Week:  
Monday 25 March 7:00pm Holy Week Pilgrimage service at St Michael's, Aldbourne  
Tuesday 26 March 7:00pm Holy Week Pilgrimage service at Holy Cross, Ramsbury  
Wednesday 27 March 7:00pm Holy Week Pilgrimage service at St Nicholas, Baydon  
Thursday 28 March 7:00pm Maundy Thursday 'The Lord's Supper' at St Michael's, Aldbourne  
Friday 29 March 2:00pm Good Friday Readings and Reflection  
Saturday 30 March 7:00pm An Easter Musical at Holy Cross, Ramsbury  
Sunday 31 March 6:15am 'Sonrise' Service in the wood, Spring Hill, Ramsbury  
9:30am Easter Communion at Holy Cross  
6:00pm Easter Evensong at St Michael's, Axford

A short (said) service of Holy Communion takes place every Thursday in March at 10.00am in Holy Cross.

Our online ZOOM services are continuing on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays in March.

Phone for Zoom services 02034815240 / 02080806591 ZOOM Meeting ID: 94834072630 Passcode: 343860

Also, our Lent Group in Ramsbury meets in the Church Rooms on the first four Saturday mornings in March (breakfast 9am - study starts at 9:30) when we shall look at our "Cross-shaped Hope in a Broken World".

For more info contact Paul Trickey (tel: 07549 937075; email: [paul.trickey@icloud.com](mailto:paul.trickey@icloud.com)) or just drop in.

### **Methodist Church**

Sunday 3 March 10.30am. Local arrangement Service led by Stewards.  
Sunday 10 March 10.30am. Service led by local Preacher.  
Sunday 17 March 10.30am. Service led by Revd Stephen Skinner.  
Sunday 24 March 10.30am Palm Sunday service. Service led by Revd Andrew Bird.  
Good Friday 29 March Walk of witness with Hot Cross Buns to Follow (check time on notice Board.)  
Sunday 31 March 10.30am Easter Morning Service led by Revd Stephen Skinner and Ramsbury Silver Band.  
Coffee Morning at the Lychgate every Thursday at 9.30am. All are welcome to join us for our coffee morning to swap puzzles and books and enjoy a time with friends. Tea & Coffee only £1 per cup.  
The re-launch of cake & company starts on 29 April at Methodist Church Hall, Aldbourne from 10.30am to 12 noon and then on the first Monday of every month from 3 June. More details coming in the April Diary.

### **Ramsbury Roxy**

Tuesday 5 March - Rye Lane at the Royal British Legion. 7pm for 7:30 start  
Friday 22 March - NTL The Motive and the Cue at the Memorial Hall. 6:30 for 7pm start  
Tuesday 2 April - One Life at the Royal British Legion. 7pm for 7:30 start  
Sunday 14 April - Barbie at the Royal British Legion. 7pm for 7:30 start  
Friday 10 May - NTL Nye at the Memorial Hall. 6:30 for 7pm start  
Please buy tickets early from [www.ramsburyroxy.org](http://www.ramsburyroxy.org) or the Ramsbury post office.  
Visit [www.ramsburyroxy.org](http://www.ramsburyroxy.org) for more and most up to date information.

## **Lunch Club**

Wednesdays 6th & 20th March Lunch Club, Church Rooms, Back Lane. Contact Diana on 520630 for details.

## **Ramsbury Flyer Community Bus**

Tuesdays Flyer to **Marlborough** leaving Ramsbury at 9.45 am (route varies). Bus passes may be used.

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

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

Thursday 14 March Flyer to **Newbury** leaving Ramsbury Square at 11.30 am. Returning from Newbury at 2.30pm. Fare £5 and seats must be booked with Janet (see below). Bus passes cannot be used.

**Surgery transport** available on Tuesday afternoons & Thursday mornings. Please book through the Surgery.

### **Flyer Trips:**

Thursday 7 March a floral demonstration with **Marlborough Floral Club**. 2pm. Entry £6. Fare £2.

Monday 18 March 9.30 am a visit to Mere **Hillbrush brush factory, with museum at Mere**. Also Charles Farris, for church candles, with demonstration. Factory shops. Fantastic restaurant at Hillbrush. Fare £12.

Thursday 28 March 12 noon the first of our new Flyer Lunch Outings : come along, with Carena and Vanessa, to have **lunch at the Castle & Ball in Marlborough**. Fare £2.

All trips can go from all local villages.

Other trips to be organised : Cribbs Causeway, Devizes, Hillier Garden Centre (Newbury), Buscot Park and a Magical Mystery Tour with cream tea !!

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

## **Phoenix Pizza**

Thursday 7 March Phoenix Pizza return to the Memorial Hall car park 4.45 to 8pm

## **Ramsbury WI**

Thursday 7 March monthly meeting at 7.30pm in the Church Rooms, Back Lane. Annual Meeting followed by an Easter/ spring craft session. Visitors welcome - any enquiries to 520908.

Thursday 21 March coffee morning at the Royal British Legion Club, 10.30am onwards.

Sunday 24 March tea party Church Rooms 2.30pm-4pm. Tea, cake, games, jigsaws etc - open to everyone.

## **Community Shop**

Ramsbury Community Charity Shop is now open and taking donations in the Memorial Hall car park. Come and see what bargains you can find. Thanks as ever to volunteers and donors. See open times on calendar.

## **Parish Council**

If you have an idea for the next large project which the Parish Council can undertake to improve facilities in the village please contact [parishcouncil@ramsbury.org](mailto:parishcouncil@ramsbury.org) or call 01672 520045.

We wish to co-opt a Councillor to replace Ron Young who has resigned. If interested please contact the PC. Recent flooding has drawn attention to the need to pay attention to blocked drains. Please report blocked drains near your home as above so that we can report them to Wiltshire Council. We are expecting a gully cleaner to visit the area in March. It is important that we can inform them which gulleys are blocked.

There are links on [www.ramsbury.org](http://www.ramsbury.org) to enable residents to see warnings about flood risks etc in the area.

We hope to reinstate monthly Sunday circular walks from the village so please watch for details.

Best Kept Village competition. Ideally we'd like to find a person/group who would take on helping the village to look at its best. If you are interested please contact us.

## **Allotments**

A few plots of varying sizes are available please contact Dee Edwards on 07867921878 for details

## **ADVANCE NOTICES**

Tuesday 9 April **Ramsbury & Axford Golf Society** first event for 2024, Spring Trophy at Ogbourne Downs.

Further details from Bob Osmond, 01672 520568 or [osmond48@btinternet.com](mailto:osmond48@btinternet.com)

Saturday 13 April **Spring Show** Memorial Hall 2pm

Saturday 20 April **Freshers' Day** Memorial Hall 10am to 12.30pm

Saturday 27 April **Premium Banana** Memorial Hall 7pm

Sunday 5 May **Boundary Walk**

Sunday 12 May **Friends of Holy Cross Garden Party** Parliament Piece 2.30pm

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