

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> Village Walk The Square 2pm 4 miles	<b>2</b> <b>FIRE STATION MEETING</b> Mem Hall 6-8pm	<b>3</b> <b>FIRE STATION MEETING</b> Mem Hall 10.30am	<b>4</b> Lunch Club	<b>5</b> WI meeting Church Rooms 7pm	<b>6</b> Aldbourn Methodist Chapel hall Art Group 2.30pm	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Flyer to Newbury Departs 11.30am	<b>13</b> NT Live Othello 7pm Memorial Hall	<b>14</b> Memorial Hall Centenary Open Day
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Parish Council meeting 7.45pm in Axford Village Hall	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Lunch Club	<b>19</b> WI coffee morning British Legion Club 10.30am	<b>20</b> Aldbourn Methodist Chapel hall Art Group 2.30pm	<b>21</b> British Legion Club Singer/guitarist 7.30pm
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Flyer outing Hillier Garden Centre Departs 10.30am	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> RHS vs Lambourn Quiz Church Rooms 7.15 for 7.30pm	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> British Legion Club Easter Prize Bingo 7pm
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Police Consultation British Legion Club 11am	<b>31</b>	<b>Ravensbury Players, Murdered to Death – a comedy</b>			
				Ramsbury & Axford <b>Link Scheme</b> Mon-Fri 9 – 5 Tel 520111	<b>Ramsbury Library</b> Mon & Thur 2 - 4pm. Wed & Sat 10am - 12pm	<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 10am	<u>Every Monday</u> Short Mat Bowls Memorial Hall 2 – 4pm	<u>Every Tuesday</u> Flyer to Marlborough 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tue Art Group Ramsbury Scout Hut 10-1	<u>Every Wednesday</u> Flyer to <u>Hungerford</u> Bingo Ramsbury Royal British Legion Club 7 for 7.30pm_	<u>Every Thursday</u> Holy Cross Lychgate Coffee morning 9.30 – 11.30am  Phoenix Pizza Memorial Hall 4.45 to 8pm	<u>Every Friday</u> Flyer to <u>Hungerford</u> Ramsbury Silver Band Axford Village Hall 7.30- 9.30pm	<u>Every Saturday</u> Junior Football 10am  <hr/> <b>March 2026</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 2026



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

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

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

February is snowdrop month, a sign that spring is on the way, that the days are getting brighter despite the cold and, this year, the near-incessant rain. Snowdrop flowers are worth a close look (pick it and take it apart, there's plenty to spare). If you peer into the open flower you find a marvellous symmetry: three outer, pure-white lobes, and then three inner ones forming a cup, each streaked with bright green on the inside, and with a V-shaped green blob on the outside where the lobe ends in a notch. Inside that lies a cluster of stamens, six of them like tiny carrots, arranged like a hexagon. And inside those lies the single style, shaped like an icicle. We call it the snowdrop, but the botanical name is *Galanthus*, the milk-flower. Enthusiasts who grow snowdrops are called galanthophiles. Two snowdrop folk-names recorded from our county are Candlemas-bell (Candlemas was on February 2<sup>nd</sup>) and shame-faced maiden. She is shame-faced because she is naked, for this flower lacks any bracts to cloth it when in bud.

The yellow lamb's-tail catkins of hazel seem particularly prolific this year. Some bushes form a haze of yellow, some with a frost-like crown of wild clematis or old man's beard. The dangling catkins disperse their yellow pollen in the wind, but I doubt whether one grain in a million, possibly even a billion, ever lands on the tiny red female flower of another hazel bush. There are few insects about right now but a few hardy flies do feed on hazel pollen, notably a little dark hoverfly called the hazel spot-tail.

While other wildflowers are in short supply in late winter, the logs and stumps are often festooned in fungi, encouraged by the wetness. On a single stump I spotted brackets, bracketcrusts, woodwarts and turkeytails, all busily consuming the dead wood and converting it to sawdust. Poke around a bit more and you may find slime moulds, variously coloured pink, yellow and grey, primitive forms of life that seem to straddle the divide between fungal and animal life. And under a beech tree I was pleased to spot a little brown toadstool that specialises in feeding on beechmast, growing out from the decaying nut like a fairy parasol. The smaller the fungus, the longer its name, it seems. This one is called *Flammulaster carpophilus*.

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

A couple of walks in Burnt Copse with watery sunshine have produced an interesting variety of birds. As well as multiple robins we saw blue, great, long tailed and marsh tits. An over wintering blackcap was in fine voice, and may well be thinking about nesting here, which would be very special. A male goldcrest came very close, and as the wind pushed its crest up it was a dramatic orange. A female bullfinch flew by, and we waited in vain to see its beautiful partner.

Both in Burnt Copse and on the way to Littlecote we watch the nests used by red kites last year, and in both cases the pair are staying close by but have not yet started the rebuilding that will clearly be needed. At Seven Bridges we were delighted to hear the explosive song of a Cetti's warbler. These secretive birds are now clearly resident in that area. If the weather warms up, they will lay their four eggs at the end of this month. It would be wonderful to find one of their nests as unusually, the eggs are bright red!

Having recently enjoyed the film 'H for Hawk', it is great news that we have goshawks nesting within a few miles of the village.

### **RAINFALL** by *Robert Osmond*

Some of you may have had a "dry January", Ramsbury certainly didn't ! We had 185.4 mm of rain, which is twice the January average. The wet weather has continued into February, and with 81 mm by the 10<sup>th</sup> we had already exceeded the monthly average. Since the 1<sup>st</sup> January, and writing this on the 11<sup>th</sup> February, we have had only 8 days without measurable rainfall and 6 of those were in the early January cold spell. Looking forward, March is one of our drier months and crops are planted, hence the old saying "March dust is worth a guinea a bushel" !

## ***Parish Council***

Dorset and Wilts Fire Authority has shortlisted 8 fire stations, including Ramsbury, for closure due to financial constraints. A petition to object to the proposal can be accessed through the link:

<https://www.fbu.org.uk/campaigns/cuts-kill-save-dorset-and-wiltshire-fire-and-rescue-service>

To object to the proposal it will help to write to Fire Authority members personally. Their addresses can be found at <https://www.dwfire.org.uk/fire-rescue-authority/authority-members/>

**Public consultation meetings for the Fire Station are to be held on Monday 2 March at 6pm to 8pm and Tuesday 3 March 10.30am-12.30pm. It's important that we get as many people as possible to attend.**

The trial one-way system in Union Street seems to be working well with no significant effect on traffic elsewhere in the village.

A kind? soul has dumped garden chairs and table in the Community Orchard. Please remove them. The penalty for fly tipping can be as high as £1,000. If anyone saw anything around 7th 8th Feb we would appreciate a call.

Wiltshire & Swindon Community Foundation are offering university bursaries of £1,900 a year to young people who need support. Details are on posters on the village noticeboards and on [www.ramsbury.org.uk](http://www.ramsbury.org.uk)  
Monday 30 March Police consultation. British Legion 11am if there are any matters that you wish to discuss.

## ***Recreation Centre 200 Club***

£100 to Bev Mann, £50 to each of John Herbertson, Graham Curtis, Stuart Millar, Anthony Francis and Barry Stephens and £25 to each of Judith Francis, Chris Morgan, Ian Walker, Georgina Smith, Rosemary Triptree and Chris Roberts.

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)

## ***Holy Cross and Whitton Benefice***

Sunday 1 March 10am Baydon Team Holy Communion

Sunday 8 March 9.30am Holy Cross BCP Matins (traditional language)

Sunday 15 March 9.30am Holy Cross Informal All Age Worship with Baptism & Seedlings activity for children

Sunday 22 March 8am Holy Cross Holy Communion

Sunday 29 March 10am Holy Cross Team Holy Communion (with procession) 12pm Baptism

Monday 30 March 7am Holy Cross Holy Week Reflective Pilgrimage

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

## ***Aldbourn Methodist Church Services***

Sunday 1 March 10.30am service led by Local Preacher. 2<sup>nd</sup> in Lent.

Sunday 8 March 10.30am L/A Service led church steward, and members. 3<sup>rd</sup> in Lent.

Sunday 15 March 10.30am Mothering Sunday service led by Revd Stephen Skinner.

Sunday 22 March 10.30am service led by Revd Rach Collins.

Sunday 29 March 10.30am Palm Sunday service led by Local Preacher.

Bible study will run on Tuesdays from 2.30pm in the Aldbourn chapel.

Art group Fridays 6 March & 20 March at 2.30pm in the Aldbourn chapel hall.

Coffee morning at the Holy Cross Lychgate Room every Thursday 9.30 to 11.30am.

## ***Annual Picture Quiz In Aid Of Treloar's***

Copies at £2 each will be available from Monday 2 March at Ramsbury Post Office

or contact Hilary Hicklin at [hilextra@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:hilextra@yahoo.co.uk) or on 01672 520899

## ***Ramsbury Horticultural Society***

**\*\*AGM delayed until Monday 13 April\*\***

Thursday 26 March Annual Quiz vs Lambourn. Church Rooms 7.30pm with quiz master Anthony Powell.

An evening of facts, fun and snacks. To join the team please contact [diannbarnett@hotmail.com](mailto:diannbarnett@hotmail.com)

## ***Royal British Legion Club***

Wednesdays 4, 11 and 18 March Bingo.

Saturday 21 March Singer/guitarist at 7.30pm.

Saturday 28 March Easter Prize Bingo doors open 6pm for eyes down 7pm.

All of the six nations games will be shown on our big screen.

## **Lunch Club**

Lunch Club this month will be on Wednesday 4 March and Wednesday 18 March

## **Ramsbury WI**

Thursday 5 March monthly meeting 7pm in the Church Rooms, Back Lane. Textile artist Jen Best will talk about how sheep fleece becomes yarn. Visitors welcome. Enquiries to 520908 or 520261.

Thursday 19 March Coffee Morning in the Royal British Legion Club 10.30am onwards.

## **Ramsbury Roxy / National Theatre Live**

Friday 13 March **Othello** Ramsbury Memorial Hall 7pm tickets £12 from website or Ramsbury Post Office

## **Memorial Hall Centenary and Rededication of the War Memorial Cross**

**Saturday 14 March** An exhibition to mark 100 years of the Ramsbury Memorial Hall's opening. Come along and see how the building has developed and used throughout the decades. Tea, coffee and cake will be available from 11.30 to 3.30. A re-dedication of the War Memorial Cross will take place at 3 pm, supported by the "Wiltshire's in the Great War", a living history group who present a physical representation of the British soldier and remember those who served during WW1. They will be able to talk about the soldiers of that time together with showing some typical equipment.

## **Ramsbury Flyer Outings**

Monday 23 March Hillier Garden Centre, Hermitage. Flyer fare only £5 and leaving Ramsbury at 10.30.

Monday 20 April Lacock NT centre, Abbey & garden, village & Fox Talbot museum leaving 10am Fare £12

Monday 11 May Blenheim Palace, park and gardens leaving at 9.30 Entry costs vary. Flyer fare £18

Thursday 21 May Lunch with Vanessa and Carena at a new venue to be advised.

Please ring Janet for more info and to book 01672 520682 or 07584 253117 visit [www.ramsburyflyer.org](http://www.ramsburyflyer.org)

## **Ravensbury Players**

Thursday 26 evening, Friday 27 evening & Saturday 28 matinee & evening. **Murdered to Death** – a comedy. Tickets £12 Available from Ramsbury Post Office, Ticket Source, ab. [mac@idnet.com](mailto:mac@idnet.com) (Alison McFee)

## **LINK**

The proposal by Wiltshire Council to withdraw funding for Link and The Flyer has been withdrawn, although the decision must be ratified – fingers crossed. We always need more volunteer drivers so if you could help in this way call Penny for details. We pay 45p a mile. No long-term commitment - 2 hours or 20 hours a month. Free coffee morning British Legion 6 March at 10.30am. To use Link please call Penny on 520111.

## **Ramsbury Community Charity Shop**

January and February were challenging. Not so many people wander around in the pouring rain but receipts of cash and donations remained robust. Hopefully, March will bring better weather and it won't be long before we have Paul's wonderful plants. Thanks to our volunteers who have soldiered on in the cold wet weather, although not as cold as 1 High Street was! Please continue to donate and come to buy. We have some very nice items at very good prices.

Sheila Glass Mary Holdsworth

## **THANKS**

A big thankyou to **Karen Rees** who is standing down after co-editing the Diary for the last five years.

**Dawn Gill** has joined the Diary team as co-editor and will be starting with the April Diary.

**The Macmillan fundraiser** on 31 January raised an amazing £2000. A big thank you to all and special thanks to all our helpers, those who donated raffle prizes, cakes and savouries, ran stalls and volunteered their time. Ramsbury and Axford at its best!

Sheila Morgan, Liz Nash, Carol Howard and Liz Hawes

## **ADVANCE NOTICES**

Saturday 11 April Ramsbury Horticultural Society Summer Show in the Memorial Hall

Monday 13 April Ramsbury Horticultural Society AGM (**NB date change**)

Saturday 25 April Freshers Day in the Memorial Hall 10am to 12.30pm

Sunday 3 May Boundary Walk

Saturday 9 May Premium Banana in the Memorial Hall 7.30pm

Friday 15 and Saturday 16 May RamFest at Ramsbury Brewery 5pm to 11pm Friday 12pm to 11pm Saturday

**Edited by John Herbertson**

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