

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Ramsbury & Axford Link Scheme Mon-Fri 9 – 5 Tel 520111	Ramsbury Library Mon & Thur 2 - 4pm. Wed & Sat 10am - 12pm	Charity Shop Tue, Wed, Thur & Sat 10 – 12.30. Tue & Thur 2 – 4.30	1	2	3
4	5	6	7 Lunch Club	8 Flyer to Newbury	9 WI New Year Lunch Memorial Hall 12.30pm	10
11 Ramsbury Roxy Sorry Baby RBL Club 7.30	12	13	14	15 WI Coffee Morning RBL Club 10.30am	16	17
18	19	20	21 Lunch Club	22 Flyer Lunch with Carena and Vanessa	23 Ramsbury Roxy NTL Live Hamlet Mem Hall 7pm	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 Macmillan Coffee Morning 10-12.30 Church Rooms
<u>Every Sunday</u> Holy Cross See notices Methodist Church See notices Tennis Club 10.am	<u>Every Monday</u> Short Mat Bowls Memorial Hall 2 – 4pm	<u>Every Tuesday</u> Flyer to <u>Marlborough</u> <u>1st & 3rd Tue</u> Art Group Ramsbury Scout Hut 10am-1pm	<u>Every Wednesday</u> Flyer to <u>Hungerford</u> Bingo Ramsbury British Legion Club 7 for 7.30pm	<u>Every Thursday</u> There will be no Phoenix Pizza in January	<u>Every Friday</u> Ramsbury Silver Band Axford Village Hall 7.30- 9.30pm	<u>Every Saturday</u> Junior Football 10am January 2026

The Village Diary is available on the Ramsbury website every month. See www.ramsbury.org.uk – What's on - Village Diary



Ramsbury and Axford Village Diary

January 2026



May we have items for the February diary before 17 January
Please email to diary@ramsbury.org

A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS

CAN YOU HELP? WE NEED A CO-EDITOR FOR OUR VILLAGE DIARY

We are looking for a volunteer to edit the Diary every other month as Karen is stepping down. The role involves sending out an initial email reminder to our regular contributors at the start of the month. Then editing the inputs into the Diary format in Word, usually just after 17th of the month and releasing it for printing. You need access to email and be able to use Word. The task takes only about 4 hours to complete.

If you feel you would like to join our team, please email diary@ramsbury.org

NATURE NOTES by Peter Marren

After one of the best seasons for mushrooms and toadstools in years, fungi were fruiting on mild days almost into December. Woodchip mulch is widely used on flowerbeds, especially in public places, to suppress weeds and maintain relatively warm, moist soil underneath. The chips break down slowly with the help of fungi, and over the years a specialised fungus flora has developed there, that is rich in non-native species from as far away as Australia. One of these was brightening the borders and beds at Littlecote, bright orange-red in colour with a roundish cap and dark spores. It has been named the redlead roundhead, as its colour is the same as redlead or minium, formerly used in pottery and in anti-corrosive paints. It was accompanied by other fungi feasting on the chips, including a cup fungus, a domecap and a cavalier (don't ask me why a mushroom should be named a cavalier, even though it did grow among roundheads! Civil war among the fungi?). Not far away there were a few late field blewits, one of the best edible wild mushrooms and delicious with a bit of bacon.

There have been reports of the lovely hummingbird hawkmoth flying in November and even December. This day-flying moth, which behaves much like a hummingbird, hovering at its favourite flowers, is a migrant from southern Europe. By rights, they should all have gone south by now, but presumably there are enough late-flowering garden flowers to maintain them (hovering is thirsty work). It seems that one or two even managed to survive the winter last year, though this is not normally a hibernating species. The same is true of the red admiral which is now often the earliest butterfly of the year. It doesn't hibernate fully, unlike its relatives the peacock and the comma, and so will fly in mild winter weather, presumably fuelled by fats imbibed from rotting fruit the previous autumn. All these things are new. Winter is no longer the dead time of year. The climate is changing and life changes with it, for better or worse.

BIRD NOTES by Paul Swan

Looking down from Spring Hill we watched a heron chasing a great white egret along the valley until they landed on different sides of the Manor Lake. These are two of our largest birds, one very common indeed and the other a relative rarity. The egret was probably Edgar, our regular winter visitor that terrorized our village ponds a couple of years ago. The egret has a wingspan of 1.5 metres, while the heron can be up to nearly 2 metres. Clearly the heron was the aggressor in this contest over fishing rights.

At the Triangle we saw a water rail flying across the river. These are extremely secretive birds that spend most of their time hidden in the rushes. Their call is unmistakable as it sounds like a piglet squealing! We

have also seen them this year at Seven Bridges, so we probably have a couple spending the winter with us. On a recent sunny day, we watched a group of seven red kites flying to and from a single tree near the Priory. They seemed to be taking it in turns to do a couple of circuits before returning to base. In the bright sunshine their plumage was stunning. One absentee from our winter visitors seems to be the large flock of golden plover. Fingers crossed that they will turn up in the new year. In the garden we had the pleasure of watching a thrush taking a bath in our small pond. There was a lot of splashing and then then a very careful preening of every single wing feather. The blackbirds are busy flicking over the fallen leaves in search of a morsel or two, while the sparrows are still hurtling about. Although getting mature now, they always seem like an excited group of teenagers! The robin, with its relatively large eyes, feeds earlier and later than most other birds, and our local bird looks particularly fit and in fine fettle. Let's hope that our relatively mild weather continues into the New Year.

RAINFALL by Robert Osmond

November with 153mm of rain was the wettest month since Sept. 2024. We had measurable rain on 22 days and 50% above the monthly average of 101mm. With the continuation of the wet spell into December we may well be near the average for the year in spite of the exceptionally dry Summer. When it wasn't raining we had some frosts in November which brings to mind the old saying "Ice in November to hold up a duck, the rest of the Winter will be as wet as muck !" We'll soon find out ! Also with the shortest day coming soon - "As the days grow longer the cold grows stronger".

Recreation Centre 200 Club

Below are the results of the December 200 Club Draw. I give away four extra prizes at Christmas! Another £100, another £50 and two x £25. So the results are as follows:

£100 to each of David de Saxe and David Langton, £50 to each of Helen Stone, Rowan Whimster, Bob Osmond, Julia Ellis, David Mills and Ros Fitton, £25 to each of Janet Hierons, Isla Bissbolissan, Ted Hiscocks, Jason Walsh, Muriel Lye, Victoria Gray and Pat Pope.

I would like to thank everyone for their continued support and wish all our members a peaceful Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year.

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 email oldtiff@hotmail.co.uk

Holy Cross Services

Sunday 4 January 10.00am Aldbourne Team Holy Communion

Sunday 11 January 9.30am BCP Matins (*traditional language*)

Sunday 18 January 9.30am Holy Communion with Seedlings activity for children

Sunday 25 January 8.00am BCP Communion (*traditional language*)

9.30am Café Church

A short (said) service of Holy Communion each Thursday at 10.00am in Ramsbury except for January 1st.

Details of all services in Whitton Benefice are in Whitton Ways.

Methodist Church

Sunday 4 January 10.30am service led by Local Preacher.

Sunday 11 January 10.30am service led by Local Preacher.

Sunday 18 January 10.30am Covenant service led by Revd Stephen Skinner.

Sunday 25 January 10.30am led by Local Preacher.

Coffee mornings in support of local charities on Thursdays 15, 22 and 29 January at the Lychgate Room. All are welcome to join us for Coffee.

Thankyou to Sandra and her helpers for Christmas Singles Lunch held on Sunday 30 November. It was a great success. Watch out for the date and details of our Spring Singles Lunch.

We are collecting used postage stamps in aid of RNIB. There is a box at the back of the chapel at 3 Lottage Rd, Aldbourne, SN8 2DL.

Lunch Club

Lunch Club this month will be on Wednesday 7 January and Wednesday 21 January.

Ramsbury Flyer

Flyer to Marlborough via Aldbourne on Tuesdays 6 and 20 January. Via Froxfield on 13 and 27 January. Thursday 8 January Flyer to Newbury leaving Ramsbury Square at 11.30 am. Further pick up points can take place. Returning from Newbury at 2.30pm. An extra drop off point at the Retail Park can be included by request. Fare £5 and seats must be booked with Janet 01672 520682 or 07584 253117. No bus passes. Thur 22 Jan Lunch outing with Carena and Vanessa, Dundas Arms, Kintbury by canal. £3-book with Janet. The full Hungerford timetable is on the website www.ramsburyflyer.org. This will be amended from April 2026. We are sorry for the difficulties this has caused to passengers.

Thank you to all those who donated to the Flyer in 2025, your support is much appreciated

Ramsbury WI

Friday 9 January New Year Lunch in the Memorial Hall at 12.30pm. Two course lunch, all drinks included plus entertainment from magician & member of the Magic Circle, Russ Styler. Tickets £15 members, £25 guests-on sale in Ramsbury Post Office. Please contact Rosalie Winter on 01672 520261 with any queries. Thursday 15 January Coffee Morning in the Royal British Legion Club, 10.30am onwards.

Ramsbury Roxy

Sunday 11 January **Sorry Baby** – Film in the Royal British Legion Club at 7.30pm. Tickets £6
Friday 23 January **Hamlet** – NTLive in Ramsbury Memorial Hall at 7pm. Tickets £12
For more information go to www.ramsburyroxy.org

Ramsbury Horticultural Society

Saturday 17 January The RHS **Members only** 'Late Xmas Party' in the Memorial Hall. 7.30pm start with our esteemed sommelier Mr Clive Glass taking us through an unusual wine tasting session and a two-course supper to follow. Tickets £20 available to members at the Post Office.

Monday 2 February the Church rooms Nicola Hope, RHS Master of Horticulture, will be 'Talking Tomatoes'. Nikki will share growing tricks and will bring along her own heritage and heirloom seeds for sale. Doors open 7pm for talk at 7.45. Members £2 visitors £4 includes refreshments and chance to win a £10 gardening voucher.

To join and for more information about Ramsbury Horticultural Society please email hortsoc@ramsbury.org or contact the Chair, Denise Edwards on 0786 792 1878.

Royal British Legion Club

Sunday 18 January at 6pm games night. Families welcome

Friday 23 January. Pool competition 7.30

Wednesday 28 January. Prize bingo. Families welcome 6.30 eyes down 7.00

Saturday 31 January Live music from the Singing Keeper doors open 7.30pm

Any queries please email enquiries@ramsburyrbl.org.uk or telephone Marion Ewel 07557418224

Ramsbury Allotments

Allotments are available and January is a good time to start. Single beds £15 half plots are £40

Contact email: allotments@ramsbury.org or find us on Facebook

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Saturday 31 January Ramsbury Church Rooms, Back Lane 10am to 12.30pm.

Cakes, savouries, raffle, games, coffee, hot chocolate and tea. Come and join us and support Macmillan.

THANKS

A big thank you to **Carol Standage** who has distributed all printed copies of the Diary around Ramsbury for the last nine years. Carol is planning to move home so has handed over the distribution to **Helen Lloyd** and **Paul Gill**, who are welcome to the Diary team.

ADVANCE NOTICES

Thursday 19 February **Phoenix Pizza** will return to Ramsbury Memorial Hall car park.

Edited by John Herbertson

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