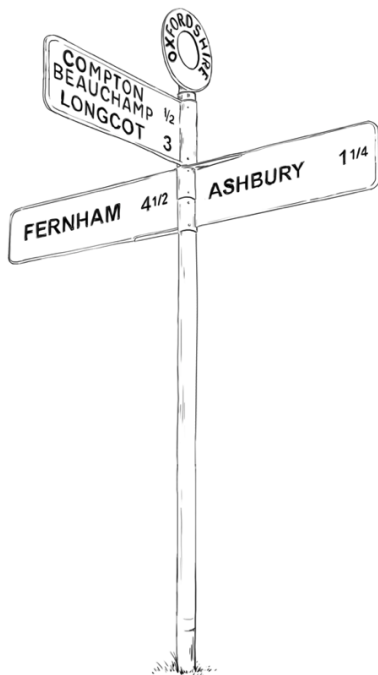


ASHBURY COMPTON LONGCOT FERNHAM NEWS

APRIL 2019



Major Events this month

6th Faringdon Singers spring concert

21st Easter Sunday

26th Ashbury Local History evening

Thought for the month

Waking up on 15th March, knowing that I had to contribute something for this page, I imagined writing about Comic Relief – always an incredibly inspiring day of fundraising and awareness raising. A chance to look up and out from our own concerns at what else is going on in the world and realise that, actually, we can do something about it. Comic Relief is huge – but beyond the celebrity mountain climbing or dance marathons, most of the money is raised by small groups of people doing the simple community fundraising that we all do to support the causes we love. It reminds us that small actions can make a huge difference.

And then I turned on the news to hear of an act of terrorism in New Zealand. Not a place I have ever been, but one which, only on Wednesday, I had been encouraged to visit by three colleagues who described its peace, tranquillity, beauty and humanity. The people of New Zealand will need all of these qualities to recover from Friday's events – and over time, with God's help, they will.

After any tragedy, be it personal or national, life can never be the same but we do find strength in the support and prayers of others and especially in the many small acts of individual kindness which somehow flourish in the shadows, bringing light and hope. Yet again, we will learn that small actions make a huge difference.

The message of Easter is not that evil is no longer present in the world, but that it can never win. In the words of Archbishop Desmond Tutu:

Goodness is stronger than evil.

Love is stronger than hate.

Light is stronger than darkness.

Life is stronger than death.

Always

Rev. Norma Fergusson

Views expressed in "Thought for the month" are those of the contributors

Ashbury News

Womens Institute - Inspiring Women Our monthly meeting on Thursday 11th April welcomes Alix Booth, entertaining us with the "History of Punch and Judy". Bishopstone Village Hall at 7.30pm. In addition -we have a trip to New Theatre Oxford on 18th April to see "The Calendar Girls", our Art Lovers Group welcome back Jenny Lyall, for two lectures "Early Female Artists" and "Moroni" on Tuesday 21st May; our Book Club members are currently reading "Atonement" by Ian McEwan. Our WI has members from the villages of Ashbury, Bishopstone, Hinton Parva, Wanborough and Liddington, and we always welcome new members. Please contact **Maggie Simons** (contact details on back cover) for more information.

Ashbury Village Green Update

Excellent progress to report this month! We've got quotes for making a playing field and it looks as though the cost will be about £26,000. We've secured funding of £7500 from the Vale of the White Horse and Ashbury Parish Council has agreed to contribute £2500, so we're nearly half way to our goal! We're now waiting to hear from Oxfordshire County Council, the Lottery Fund, Sport England and Ashbury's own William Cash Fund. The other good news is that the children at Ashbury School have agreed to help us with planning – we had a terrific meeting with the School Council. We need to make sure that the whole area is free of rubbish and, most especially, free of dog waste. The School Council was concerned that children are going to be playing regularly on the field and if there is any dog waste around at all they will be at risk of toxocarasis, which is serious and can cause blindness. We're looking at the bins that are available but unless everyone uses them we won't get a Green that is clean and safe. We know that the great majority of dog owners take great care to clear up every time, but for the Village Green we need absolutely everyone to be just as careful. Children at the school are helping by designing posters to be displayed on the Green. If you have comments or questions please contact **Liz Derrington** (email elizabethderrington45@gmail.com or phone 710813)

Village Safari Supper

This popular village event will be held again this year on Saturday **11 May**. A superb 3 course home cooked meal including wine for only £15, each course hosted in a different home in Ashbury or Kingston Winslow. Diners will not know the location of their courses or the identity of their fellow diners, until the day of the event when their secret envelopes are opened – it's great fun and a fantastic opportunity to meet new and old friends whilst walking around the village. All proceeds to St Mary's, Ashbury.

If you would like to attend, or would like to host a course in your home, please email **Judy Clarke** (judithannc Clarke@sky.com) or call 710305.

Ashbury Local History Evening-

26 April 7.30 pm, Village Hall

Please join us to hear about the history of our lovely village. Several speakers will be telling us about buildings, place names, characters, as well as giving a timeline and much more. Tickets cost £3 and can be booked by emailing mbsmith5@hotmail.co.uk or telephoning 710800.

Emergency and resilience planning : The Parish Council is putting together a list of people with practical skills who might be able to be of use in an emergency. These details will not be shared in other circumstances. Examples of what we are looking for:

- Doctors, nurses, vets- tree surgeons and maintenance professionals - catering (tea, sandwiches)- those good with horses, dogs, cats and other animals
- those good with tech skills and the internet (for getting word out)

The list is open ended so if you have an idea of how you could be useful please get in touch. Anica Nishio (Parish Council Communications Officer) communication-officer@ashbury.org.uk

Storytelling at the Ashbury tearoom and shop- 3 April 10 am: Bring your little ones to be entertained with crafts and stories while you enjoy a coffee in our cosy tea room. Yvette will be bringing stories to life for preschool age children, (Children must be accompanied by an adult), on the first Wednesday of each month. On 3 April Yvette will be reading stories featuring bears, and the children are invited to bring their favourite teddy with them. Future dates: 1 May and 5 June.

Longcot 'Music in Bloom' Flower Festival and Concert

St Mary's church open 11-19 May from 11 – 6 each day.

This year the festival will reflect music in its many forms. Whether you enjoy classical or pop music, nursery rhymes or ballads there will be something for everyone. On Saturday 18th May at 6pm music and flowers come together for a special Spring family concert given by the Clarinet Collective, a versatile group of professional clarinetists who will play short items in a wide range of musical styles to link in with the theme of the festival.

ADMISSION FREE to the flower festival and concert with donations in aid of the Longcot Village Trust fundraising to create a new community space in St Mary's church.

Three studios open in the village for Oxfordshire Artweeks. See www.artweeks.org for details Contact: Shirley sdm57@btinternet.com

Fernham News

We recently heard the excellent news that Peter Pearce of Elmside, Fernham, has been awarded a High Sheriff of Oxfordshire's Award 2019 for his outstanding work for the Multiple Sclerosis Society and his work in the community. This is a very well deserved recognition of Peter's efforts over many years, very ably supported by his wife, Sandra. The MS Society writes:

"Peter has been a supporter for the MS Trust for many years now and even with dealing with his own Multiple Sclerosis journey he has always gone above and beyond in raising the profile of MS and the MS Trust within his local community. This was shown more recently when he cycled 300 miles over 4 days from London to Paris and raising over £4,500 which is an amazing achievement for a 71 year old but also proving that he will not be governed by his MS.

The MS Trust is a small, national charity. We are so proud of his dedication and commitment to not only raising money for the MS Trust but for raising awareness of the condition.

Here at the MS Trust we believe that Peter is the ideal candidate to receive the Contributions to Community Life in Oxfordshire category of the High Sheriff of Oxfordshire's Awards 2019 . Peter is a true gentlemen who is a real pillar of strength and an inspiration for people living with Multiple Sclerosis."

Peter learnt to play the trumpet since contracting MS, and together with his wife, Sandra, is a valued member of the Wantage Silver Band. The Fernham community are very pleased and proud that Peter's contribution to our community and the MS Trust has been recognised by this award.

Neil

Church Matters

Ashbury: Services are at **11am** on April 7th, 21st and 28th. At **8am** on 14th; (join Shrivenham from **10am**.) (**7pm** on 18th, join Compton.) **2pm** on 19th, Vigil at St Mary's. (**8pm** on 20th; join Shrivenham.)

Compton: **9am** on April 7th and 21st. **7pm** on 18th, **2pm** on 19th. (14th and 20th join Shrivenham.)

Longcot: **3 pm** on April 7th, joint service in the Chapel, (14th and 20th join Shrivenham,) (18th join Compton.) **Noon** on 19th; Vigil. **9.30am** on 21st and 28th

Fernham: **3pm**. on April 7th (join with Longcot) **9am** on 21st, **6pm** on 28th. (14th and 20th join Shrivenham; 18th join Compton).

The Ashbury prayer cycle for April will be: 7th, Church Lane, 14th, College Farm Lane, 21st, Ashdown Estate, 28th, High Street.

Ashbury Evangelical Free Church

April 14th at 11.00 a.m. Communion.

Tea and chat Wednesday 10th and 24th at 2.15pm. Everyone is welcome!!

Longcot Churches working together -Chapel News

Sun. 7th 3pm -This month's united service will be led by Phil Bunce and everyone is welcome to join us and to stay for tea and biscuits afterwards.

Fri. 29th 3pm T Time Fellowship. This month we shall be enjoying hot cross buns as it's not too long after Easter so do come and join us for afternoon tea, everyone is welcome – no charge but donations to charity are welcome (See below)

If transport would help or you need to know more please ring **Stella Tidmarsh on 01793 782584.**

A huge 'THANK YOU' to everyone who contributed to the £95 which has been sent to 'Send a Cow' recently.

A happy and blessed Easter to you all from everyone associated with the chapel.

Around the Benefice

Lent and Easter

Our Lent course on St Paul's letter to the Colossians continues in Ashbury on Tuesdays at 7.30 pm in St Mary's House, Ashbury. More details from Richard & Norma (710055)

We will be celebrating Holy Week and Easter with services across the benefice:

Palm Sunday: 8am said communion in St Mary's, Ashbury; Palm Sunday procession and service start from Shrivenham Methodist Church at 10am

Maundy Thursday: 7pm communion with foot washing at St Swithun's, Compton Beauchamp

Good Friday: an hour at the cross from noon in St Mary's Longcot and from 2pm in St Mary's Ashbury

Easter Eve: one of the most beautiful services of the Christian year, filled with imagery, symbolism and deep meaning as the new Easter Light is brought into the church. Starts at 8pm in St Andrew's

Easter Day: will be celebrated in all our churches; services at the normal times

New midweek Communion service

There will be a short, said, service of Holy Communion in St Mary's Ashbury at 11am on Thursday 11 April. The service lasts for about 20 minutes and uses the Iona liturgy

Breakfast Groups in April

Men's breakfast will be held in Ashbury Village Hall as usual on Saturday 27 April at 8am; Breakfast Bible Study will be 6 April. All welcome. Please let Norma and Richard know if you would like to come – 710055

Annual Parochial Church Meetings

All welcome to attend and (if on the electoral roll) to vote. Come and hear what we have been doing over the last year. All meetings in church:

Ashbury Tuesday 9th April 7pm Compton Beauchamp, Tuesday 16th April 7pm
Longcot & Fernham Wednesday 17th April 7:30pm

A Prayer for Easter

Risen Christ,

you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope:

strengthen us to proclaim your risen life and fill us with your peace,

to the glory of God the Father. Amen

Norma

Faringdon Singers' Spring concerts

Saturday 6 April at 7.30 in All Saints, Faringdon and Sunday 7 April at 7pm in St Mary's Church, Buckland

Country Matters

A recent folder has arrived from DEFRA (Dept. of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) Animal Health Agency listing at farm level a bovine TB report. It lists all the cattle (35) that have had to be taken for slaughter as reactors off our farm over the last 10 years. A farm near Faringdon has had a devastating 300 reactors over the last few years.

At the risk of not dodging this controversial subject you will probably know that this whole TB business is such a fraught issue. Last year there were 40,000 cattle slaughtered as reactors and doubtfuls, up by a third from only a few years ago. TB in cattle has spread remorselessly in a NE direction from the SW. In this area we fall into an edge area with frequent testing required aimed at limiting the spread. With rigid testing before any movements, cattle to cattle infection, once the guilty party, has been overtaken as the main source of infection by carrier wildlife.

Badgers seem to excrete more infectious bacteria than deer and this year we have found diseased lungs in both badgers and deer on our farm. Bovine TB is a fraught issue for the activists and campaigners like Brian May who deplore the government's culling policy aimed at beating this disease. It's a fraught issue for most farmers; a very serious issue for some on several counts. Milk producers might lose so many cattle they cannot fulfil their contracts or with only a few reactors sometimes the farm is prevented from selling calves which means they get overstocked with nowhere to house them. It can be a disaster for pedigree breeders who may lose some of their favoured blood lines built up over a generation. And lastly it's a fraught issue for the wildlife themselves who need our help to beat this horrible disease.

Vaccination to protect cattle seems years away and trapping badgers to protect them with a vaccination is pointless if they are already carriers. The licensed cull areas are showing evidence that the policy is working with breakdowns much reduced.

This new report highlights the extent of the disease in our area publishing a map of local breakdowns covering the area from Shrivenham in the north to Baydon in the south and from Swindon to Lambourn in the east. It lists 37 breakdowns on farms in this area with nearly every cattle farm affected at some stage.

This report also for the first time has identified by post mortem analysis the special genotype of *M. bovis*, responsible for the breakdown on each farm. On a 5 km square this can be useful in typing different infectious hot spots in wildlife or whether instead the bacterium was imported through cattle movements from outside the area.

Richard Green

Contacts

Ashbury Parish Council

Chairman Cliff Davies 01793 710712 chairman@ashbury.org.uk

Clerk to the council: Laura Evans email clerk@ashbury.org.uk

Defibrillator: On the wall by the School entrance

St Mary's Ashbury Parochial Church Council

Associate Vicar Revd Norma Fergusson 01793 710055 rev.n.fergusson@btinternet.com

(not Mondays or Fridays)

Church warden: Maggie Simons 01793 710801

Secretary: Roger Simons 01793 710801 rogersimons1@outlook.com

Vicar interregnum (Shrivenham)

Ashbury Village Hall

Maggie Simons 0193 710801 maggiemsimons@outlook.com

Secretary Margaret Smith 01793 710800 mbsmith5@hotmail.co.uk

Bookings: Lin and Kevin Clarke 01793 710326

Ashbury with Compton Beauchamp CE(A) Primary School and little Berries Preschool

Headteacher Rachael Smith 01793 710259 [www. http://www.ashburyprimary.org.uk](http://www.ashburyprimary.org.uk)
office.3851@ashbury.oxon.sch.uk

Ashbury Village Shop 01793 710068

G.P. Surgeries Shrivenham 01793 782207 Lambourn 01488 71715/72299

Post Office at the Rose & Crown Wednesdays and Fridays 9.30-11.30am

Vale of the White Horse District Council 01235 422422

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/>

Recycling/Rubbish collection queries admin.vale@biffa.co.uk

Food waste is collected weekly, green/black bins alternate each week. Garden waste brown bins fortnightly. Mondays except Bank holidays.

Your Local District Councillors are: Elaine Ware 01973 783026

elaine.ware@whitehorsedc.gov.uk and Simon Howell 01793 784491

simon.howell@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

County Councillor: Yvonne Constance: 01235 751475/07976934884

yvonne.constance@oxfordshire.gov.uk

M.P. for the Wantage constituency: Ed Vaizey. Contact information. House of Commons London SW1A 0AA. Bus. phone: 0207 219 6350. email: ed.vaizey.mp@parliament.uk.

Newsletter entries for **May** 2019. Submit your entries for May by **15th April** to: M. Turner Claremont, Ashbury SN6 8LN. marionlturner@me.com 01793 710302 For more of "what's on" and local information see the Ashbury Village Website www.ashbury.org.uk and the community page on Facebook.