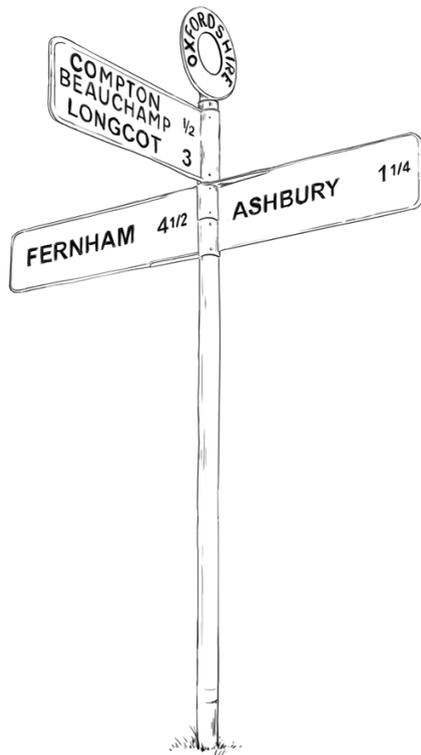


**ASHBURY  
COMPTON LONGCOT FERNHAM  
NEWS  
August 2018**



**Major Events this month**

Rev Richard Hancock's final service-at Shrivenham 26<sup>th</sup> August  
Children's Craft afternoon 29<sup>th</sup> August  
Water safety message from Oxon Fire and Rescue

## Thought for the month

From time to time, I hear someone say, “The world is not what it used to be.” It’s said with regret, as though the world was once a kinder place. And yet, I’d venture to say the world is exactly as it used to be. Or rather, societies are the same as they ever were.

Bible stories are full of warring, of one group of people being suspicious of another, of people condemning those who believed differently. There was distrust of strangers, slavery, an abundance of what we would call today human rights abuses. The poor were despised and treated badly. The rich were obsessed with acquisition. But in among all of this, there were wise and wonderful individuals who worked for change, each in whatever way they could.

What’s changed in the world today is technology. We can subjugate or avoid each other in far more sophisticated ways. We can spread our messages of distrust far wider. We can pass judgement on people we’ve never encountered, and are never likely to. And we do do all those things; if not personally, then through our chosen leaders.

I don’t think this means our world will never change. It’s simply that evolving in mind and spirit is as slow a process as physical evolution, and we aren’t as far along as we like to believe. But we can change that. We can speed up our own mental/spiritual evolution by simply looking harder at our programmed responses. We can and should second-guess ourselves. And when we find fault in others, perhaps we can remember to ask ourselves why we feel so righteous in ourselves.

We can teach our children to question more than we may have done in our time, and maybe the next generation of leaders will be one step better. We can shun sensationalism in the news, and fact-check things we read before we share them. We can learn to put more emphasis on non-material achievements, like kindness and compassion. We can support and champion movements such as teaching meditation in school as a way of dealing with anger and negative emotions.

In short, just by thinking before we act or judge, we can each move towards becoming those wise and wonderful individuals who contributed to changing their world.

**Gail Haslam Loose**

*Views expressed in “Thought for the month” are those of the contributors*

## Ashbury News

**John Bunce** Donations given in memory of John amounted to £1050, of which £525 has been given to the Royal British Legion and £525 to the Cancer Hospice at Wroughton. Thank you to all who gave. **Anne Bunce**

### Ashbury Village Fete

We would like to thank everyone who supported our fete on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup>. Even though it was a very hot day it was well attended, giving a good community atmosphere hopefully enjoyed by all. We raised a total of £860 with which we have purchased two more benches for the open space; also a donation was given towards the village map. Once again, thanks for your support from the Fete Committee.

.....**In this month 1868** : from the Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle Monday 10<sup>th</sup> August . **Sunstroke**: a poor woman named Taylor who was gleaning in a field at Ashbury was killed by sunstroke on Saturday last.

## Church Matters

**Ashbury**: Services are at 11am on Sundays at St Mary's except 26<sup>th</sup> which will be Benefice Communion at Shrivenham at 10.30am (Rev Hancock's final service.)

**Compton**: 9am on 1<sup>st</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>

**Longcot**: 9.30am on 12<sup>th</sup>, 6pm on 19<sup>th</sup>. Joint service on 5<sup>th</sup> at 3pm.

**Fernham**: 9.00am. on 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>.

Benefice service at Shrivenham on 26<sup>th</sup> July 10.30am

The Ashbury prayer cycle for August will be: 5<sup>th</sup> College Farm Lane, 12<sup>th</sup> Ashdown Estate, 19<sup>th</sup> High Street, 26<sup>th</sup> Idstone road.

### Ashbury Evangelical Free Church

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> at 10.15 a.m. Communion service

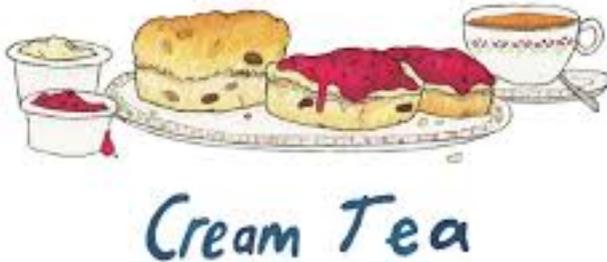
Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> at 2.15pm. tea & chat.

Everyone is welcome!!

## **Longcot Churches working together**

Sun. 5th 3pm Our monthly United Service will be led by Mrs. Lou Ashford, Methodist Local Preacher from Highworth. Everyone is welcome to join us and to stay for refreshments afterwards.

Tues. 28th, Weds.29th, Thurs.30th 3.30 – 5pm CREAM TEAS IN THE CHAPEL. Come, relax and enjoy a delicious cream tea on one/two or THREE afternoons!



There is no charge but donations to our chosen charity will be greatly appreciated. If you require Gluten Free scones/cakes we will have some available. **EVERYONE IS WELCOME.**

## **Around the Benefice**

### **Children's craft afternoon** Wednesday 29 August 2-4pm

There will be another craft afternoon in Ashbury Village Hall on Wednesday 29 August: once again it is free and there will be tea and coffee for the grown ups (not that you're not welcome to join in, too!).

## **Breakfast Groups**

Men's breakfast: is taking a break until October

**Breakfast Bible Study:** this monthly discussion group will meet next at 8am on Saturday 25 August. Again, all are welcome to discuss some bible readings (and anything else for that matter) over a cup of coffee and a simple breakfast. Again, please call Norma on 710055 for more information.

## **Prayer for the month**

Thinking especially of those leaving school, college or university this summer, but for everyone who feels as though they are in a place of transition:

God of the ages,  
you are the beginning of our journey and our strength as we pause along the way.  
Hold us by the hand as we grow, show us where to seek you, and guide our steps that we may find you.  
Give us devoted hearts that we may love you, and your peace when we reach our journey's end. Amen

**Norma**

## **Advance notice: Take part or sponsor Ride and Stride      Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust   Saturday 8th September**

Over the last 54 years, Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust has given in grants, several million pounds to churches and chapels of all Christian denominations in Oxfordshire to help maintain them and save roofs, stained glass, wall paintings and much more. Recently we have been supporting the installation of roof alarms for churches who have had, or are vulnerable to, lead thefts and of recent years given substantial grants towards making the buildings more useful to the local community - for example by the installation of kitchens, loos, extra rooms and more.

Much of this has been as the result of funds raised by Ride + Stride - a fun day to get out and about cycling or walking or other activities. We need more people to do support this as often these historic buildings are integral to where people live and in many areas are the only community building which can be used.

Cycle, walk or find another way to visit Oxon churches while raising funds

For full details visit [ohct.org.uk/ride-stride](http://ohct.org.uk/ride-stride)

## **A message from Oxfordshire's Fire and Rescue Service:**

### **Be Water Aware this summer**

With the weather warming up, long sunny days and the summer holidays in sight, there is a temptation to cool off in one of Oxfordshire's many rivers and inland waterways. And while there may not be any river monsters waiting down there, unfortunately rivers and waterways can be very dangerous places - 255 people accidentally drowned in 2017 in the UK.

That's why, at this time of year, Oxfordshire's Fire and Rescue Service is reminding all residents to Be Water Aware to help everyone stay safe this summer.

Would you know what to do?

Knowing what to do when someone gets into trouble in the water could help save someone's life:

**Call:** 999

**Float:** tell them to float on their back

**Throw:** something that floats

... and don't jump in yourself

Find out more at [www.365alive.co.uk/BeWaterAware](http://www.365alive.co.uk/BeWaterAware)

## Country Matters

It's very hot and harvest is about to begin in the second week of July, some 10-14 days early providing the weather holds. There are worries about yields, fires and water supplies, also whether trees, hedges and shrubs recently planted can survive the drought. We are putting out a bowl of water at night for our latest garden guest, Mrs Tiggy-Winkle the hedgehog.

But with our 2018 corn and rape yields purely guesswork I am going to leave all comment on the drought until next month. Instead let us look this month at farming cheek by jowl with our urban cousins. This is prompted by an article in the Farmers Weekly and a visit I made a week ago to judge growing crops for the Royal Windsor Forest Agricultural Association.

Of course round here at the foot of the downs most farms are large and the majority of farming is serious arable or arable/mixed livestock production. Farms with shops and leisure activities such as Roves farm, Highworth or the Cotswold Wildlife Park near Burford are the exception. Some livestock farmers gain a premium by retailing boxed beef or lamb direct to the public.

What I saw at Windsor was a further a step-up in on farm diversification. There were a couple of large 3,000 acre operators but even they had bolt-on diversification income which they said they could not manage without. One was contracted to clear snow at Heathrow airport, undertake landscaping contracts, has mobile phone masts, a landfill site and a gravel pit.

Smaller 150 acre farms were surviving by giving up growing cereals in favour of grass crops supplying top quality hay and haylage bales (wrapped hay) into the many equine yards. One farmer was supplying 150 large bales each day, yes each day to these horsey customers, many being polo yards and then removing all the dung bedding for a fee. He was also topping polo lawns. Another had started a farm shop, butchery and children's area on a 30 acre farm and was now turning over £1m and employing 25 staff. Bed and breakfast, storage and ready tenants for any surplus premises added to the mix. They were working with the congested area rather than fighting it.

We like our peace and quiet and glorious downland landscapes. These urban guys have to endure colossal traffic challenges, all equipment has to be bolted down, nothing can be left out overnight, CCTV cameras, electronic gates and padlocks everywhere are essential but these farmers were quoted as saying they would rather farm in a busy area than somewhere remote. They were prepared to turn these trials into opportunities.

**Richard Green**

## Contacts

### **Ashbury Parish Council**

Chairman Kate Watkins

01793 710440 [kate\\_l\\_watkins@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:kate_l_watkins@hotmail.co.uk)

Clerk to the council -Claire Arnold [clerk@ashbury.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:rev.n.fergusson@btinternet.com)  
(not Mondays or Fridays)

Church warden: Maggie Simons 01793 710801

Secretary: Roger Simons 01793 710801 [rogersimons1@outlook.com](mailto:rogersimons1@outlook.com)

Vicar Rev. Richard Hancock 01793 780183 (Shrivenham)

### **Ashbury Village Hall**

Maggie Simons 0193 710801 [maggiemsimons@outlook.com](mailto:maggiemsimons@outlook.com)

Secretary Margaret Smith 01793 710800 [mbsmith5@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mbsmith5@hotmail.co.uk)

Bookings: Lin and Kevin Clarke 01793 710326

**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](mailto: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](mailto:elaine.ware@whitehorsedc.gov.uk) and Simon Howell 01793 784491

**[simon.howell@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:simon.howell@whitehorsedc.gov.uk)**

**County Councillor:** Yvonne Constance: 01235 751475/07976934884

[yvonne.constance@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto: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](mailto:ed.vaizey.mp@parliament.uk).

Newsletter entries for **September** 2018. Submit your entries for September by **17<sup>th</sup> August** to: M. Turner Claremont, Ashbury SN6 8LN. [marionlturner@me.com](mailto:marionlturner@me.com) 01793 710302

For more of "what's on" and local information see the Ashbury Village Website [www.ashbury.org.uk](http://www.ashbury.org.uk) and the community page on Facebook.