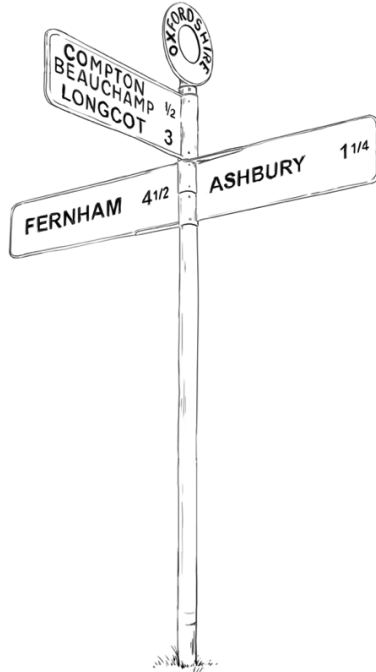


**ASHBURY
COMPTON LONGCOT FERNHAM
NEWS
December 2018/January 2019**



Major Events this month and next

6th Dec Ashbury School Christmas Fayre

15th Dec Wessex Male Choir

21st Dec Stations of the Nativity

5th January New Year Family village party

Thought for the month

Earlier this year, I learned a new word: kintsukuroi. It means “golden repair” and is the Japanese art of repairing broken pottery using lacquer mixed with precious metal (often powdered gold) so that something which was broken becomes beautiful and precious.

The various remembrance events held across our villages to commemorate Armistice Day were living examples of kintsukuroi. None of them ignored the horrors of the Great War, but by piecing the memories together with respect, prayer and a devout desire to protect our future from the mistakes of the past, we created something special – encapsulated for me by the sight of young children sitting (so to speak) on the laps of fallen, as they shared space in Ashbury village hall with the silhouettes of those who were “there but not there.”

My other special memory comes from the centenarian and toddlers who chimed Fernham’s bell to sound “Battle’s o’er” – and from the trouble everyone took to make this possible. Sometimes the kintsukuroi comes from the love with which things are done.

At Christmas, we celebrate God’s kintsukuroi: not just the incarnation which used divine love to repair a broken world, but the fact that the risen Christ still bore the scars of his crucifixion. And God’s gift to us is our capacity to love – and to be able to use that love in return to repair what is broken and make it beautiful.

Norma Fergusson

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

DEAR READERS GIVEN THE BUSY NATURE OF THE CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR PERIOD AND HOLIDAY COMMITMENTS OF OUR DISTRIBUTORS, THIS NEWSLETTER WILL BE A COMBINED DECEMBER/JANUARY EDITION. WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING AND CONTINUED SUPPORT. BLESSINGS AND BEST WISHES FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

Ashbury News

Ashbury School Christmas Fayre - Thursday 6th December - 5-7 pm Come and join us for a fabulous evening of Christmas cheer, Carols, Mince Pies, Santa’s Grotto, Cakes, Bottle & Sweet Tombolas, Christmas Hampers, Raffle Prizes, Competitions and Games. There will also be many beautiful stalls with gorgeous original goodies for all your Christmas shopping under one warm and welcoming roof! Free Entry - come and support our village school.

Ashbury Community Club - Tuesday 11th December 12.30pm Christmas lunch at The Rose & Crown at 1pm, guests welcome. Our January meeting will be in the Village Hall as usual on the last Thursday of the month. 2.30 pm. 31st Jan 2019. Details nearer the time from Jackie Baker 710358

Wessex Male Choir - Saturday 15 December 7.00 for 7.30 pm, Village Hall
Join the award-winning Wessex Male Choir in a wonderfully uplifting Christmas concert in Ashbury Village Hall. Doors open at 7 pm so there’s plenty of time for a drink and some snacks before the concert starts at 7.30 pm. Tickets £12.50 from Maggie Simons (710801) or Revd Norma Fergusson (710055)

Winter Lecture - Wednesday 19 December 7.30 pm, Berrycroft Hub

We are busy at the Hub organising a winter lecture programme to entertain and educate on those long dark evenings. We're already off to a seriously exciting start with prehistory expert and experimental archaeologist James Dilley talking about Ötzi: A rare view into Neolithic life 5300 years ago. James will be not only sharing the latest research about the iconic iceman but also bringing replicas of some of the artefacts he has made himself. Tickets cost £7.50 and include a glass of wine or soft drink. <https://www.berrycroftHub.com/store/p67/otzitalk.html>

Knitting group Our small group have been busy knitting/crocheting poppies. With the help of the staff at the Rose and Crown we sold poppies and raised the grand sum of £157 for the Royal British Legion. Thank you to everyone who was so generous buying one. Our group is open to anyone, so do feel free to join us in the breakfast room of the Rose and Crown, 6-8pm Wednesdays.

Marina Tombs

New Year Family Village Party – Village Hall – Saturday 5th January - 4.00 – 7.00pm
Tea, games and fun. Free entry but please bring a plate of food to share. Soft drinks and tea/coffee will be provided. This event is sponsored by the Village Hall and St Mary's Church. No need to book, just turn up.

World War 1 Centenary Remembrance donations to the Royal British Legion. St. Mary's Ashbury would like to thank those of you who attended our World War 1 Remembrance events and to let you know that your donations to the Royal British Legion amounted to £250. This is in addition to the donations received from the sale of poppies.

Community Carol Singing - Thursday 20 December 2.30 pm, Village Hall, all welcome.

Stations of the Nativity - Friday 21 December 6 pm
Meet at the crossroads for the retelling of the nativity, finishing inside the Manor Barn.

Carol Service - Saturday 22 December 5 pm, St Mary's Church
Traditional candlelit Carol Service - all welcome.

NB Post Office at the Rose and Crown 9.30-11.30 Wednesdays and Fridays. In addition, Matthew brings a lovely collection of cards, gifts and essential stationery.

Ashbury PCC would like to thank all those who bought raffle tickets, contributed to and supported the Annual Bazaar. This year we are pleased to say we raised **£1513** which supports the running of Ashbury Church.

PARISH COUNCIL INFORMATION: VACANCY FOR PARISH COUNCILLOR

This notice provides formal notification of a vacancy for a parish councillor within Ashbury Parish Council. There is one vacancy open with immediate effect of this notice.

If you would like to become a parish councillor, then please contact the parish clerk at the details below. Further details of the process (nomination, co-opting, electing etc) will be announced in due course, following closure of the application process.

Please submit your interest to Laura Evans no later than Monday 3rd December at clerk@ashbury.org.uk

Village Green Update

A small group has been meeting regularly to develop a plan for the village green: tidying, making it more user-friendly for residents both young and old, improving planting, and to keep the whole space free from dog waste and make part of it suitable for games and sports (for all ages). We are in the process of seeing what is possible, and the costs. In the new year we hope to circulate drawings and we would like to get your thoughts on how the space could be used and improved. It will almost certainly be small steps taken as funds become available; nonetheless we are hopeful that very soon we will all begin to see improvements and that the green will become more widely used by all.

Gardener/Maintenance Person needed

The Parish Council are looking for a gardener or maintenance person to regularly maintain various green spaces around the village. Please contact Anica (communication-officer@ashbury.org.uk) for further details.

Vehicles on the Ridgeway

Various residents have noted an increase in the number of vehicles on the Ridgeway, including motorcycles behind the church. While vehicles are allowed on certain stretches of the Ridgeway, given the safety issues involved in this area it has been suggested that residents report incidents to the local police. Photos and reg numbers assist in this. Another cause of concern is camper vans parked for long periods of time in the Ridgeway car parks. This raises issues of access, safety and sanitation, residents are within their rights to be concerned. Please contact Sarah Wright, the officer at the National Trails Office in charge of The Ridgeway (Ridgeway@oxfordshire.gov.uk; 01865 810224).

Ray Gigg: We have the news from his family that Ray passed away peacefully at home on 22nd November. Typically, he did not want it known that he was terminally ill. He was central to village life for many decades and will be greatly missed.

A message from the Fire Brigade

All it takes is one distraction: Did you know that 1 in 3 people rescued from house fires in Oxfordshire are rescued from cooking fires? Or that distraction is the main cause of cooking fires?

If you need to leave your cooking, **even for a couple of minutes:**

turn down the heat,

set the time,

or ask someone to watch it for you.

Or you could find that Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service firefighters join you for dinner!

More information <http://www.365alive.co.uk/cooking>

1st W&S Scouts Big Christmas Post 2018

Stamps – costing 30p each – and the green Scout post boxes are in I V Florist in Shrivenham, Bloomfields café in Watchfield, Ashbury village shop and in Longcot from Anita Baker at the school gate. Look out for posters around the villages for information about delivery areas. Last posting date is on Tuesday 11th December:
5pm in the Florists in Shrivenham 2.30pm in Bloomfields Café in Watchfield 3.00pm in Longcot School 3.30pm in Ashbury Village shop



Elm Tree Surgery press release:

The partners and manager at Elm Tree Surgery are well aware that many patients are concerned about the surgery’s ability to cope with the increasing population locally. We would like to reassure everyone that we will continue to provide the full range of services at our present site and have no plans to move. The building cannot be extended but it can be used to its maximum efficiency. We are also in negotiation for a second site in the village where some of our services could be provided.

Please be reassured that all patients moving into our practice area can register with us should they wish, and those patients who are already registered with us can continue to be registered, unless they then move outside of the practice area.

There are no plans whatsoever which will require patients in our practice area to register at any other existing or planned health centres.

Everyone at Elm Tree Surgery is committed to providing the highest possible standards of care in a timely fashion to all our patients, and we will continue to do so using the best resources available. **Doctors Crockett, Edwards, Campbell and Downing**

Church Matters

Ashbury: Services are at 11am on **Dec 2nd, 9th**, (at Free Church) 16th and 23rd at St Mary’s, Carol service at 5pm on 22nd. Services at 11am on **Jan 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th**.

Compton: 9am on **Dec 2nd** and 6pm on 16th. 9am on **Jan 6th** and 20th.

Longcot: 3 pm on **Dec 2nd**, (joint Advent Carols), Carol service 6pm on 16th, 9.30am on 9th and 23rd. 3pm on **Jan 6th** (joint service), 6pm on 20th, 9am on 13th and 27th.

Fernham: 9am. on **Dec 2nd** and 9th, Carol service 4pm on 16th, 6pm on 23rd.

Jan 6th 3pm (join Longcot), 9am on 13th and 20th, 6pm on 27th.

The Ashbury prayer cycle for December will be: 2nd, Church Lane, 9th, College Farm Lane, 16th Ashdown Estate, 23rd High St., 30th Idstone Rd. For January it will be: 6th, Idstone, 13th Kingstone Winslow, 20th Malthouse Close, 27th Odstone Farm and Cottages.

Ashbury Evangelical Free Church

Sunday 9th December and 13th January at 11.00 a.m. Communion, joined by St Marys, Tea and chat Wednesday 5th and 19th December. 2nd (to be confirmed) and 16th **January** at 2.15pm. Everyone is welcome!!

Longcot Churches working together -Chapel News

Sun 2nd Dec .3pm Everyone is welcome to join us in the Chapel for our United Advent Carol Service which will be led by Revd. Keith Osborn. Tea and mince pies will be served after the service. Due to the Christmas Holiday there will be no T Time Fellowship this month but we look forward to seeing everyone again at the end of January.

A HAPPY, BLESSED AND PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS TO EVERYONE FROM US ALL AT LONGCOT CHAPEL

Sun. 6th Jan. 3pm We look forward to welcoming everyone to our United Monthly Service which will be led by Pam and Stella and we hope you will stay to share fellowship over refreshments afterwards.

Fri.25th 3- 4.30pm T TIME FELLOWSHIP. Everyone is welcome to join us as we enjoy chatting and laughing over tea (including hot, buttered crumpets!) If transport would help or you'd just like to know more, please call Stella on 01793 782584.

Longcot Church Cleaning Rota We were sad when we heard that Mike and Emma Ablitt were moving to Watchfield this autumn. They have been a big part of village life and contributed so much to our community over the years. Next May will not be the same without Emma's sculpture exhibition open as part of Oxfordshire Artweeks. Thank you both for all your hard work and we wish you happiness in your new home and look forward to seeing you back in Longcot often.

Understandably Mike and Emma will not be on the church cleaning rota next year, so we really would like to find someone or two to replace them. We plan the rota for the year and take responsibility for a month or two each. The task is not too onerous as a once-a-month clean at a time and day to suit you, with maybe a check on other weeks, is usually enough to keep our beautiful church looking so well kept. It is a very worthwhile job and much appreciated by visitors who often leave nice comments in the book.

If you are interested in helping or want to know more, then **Sylvia Bovington** (Tel: 782591) would love to hear from you.

Around the Benefice

Christmas events and services – see separate sheet included with this month's magazine, but if you Enjoy singing, St Mary's Ashbury is looking for volunteers to join our Christmas choir. For further details please contact Richard Fergusson on 710638.

Commemorative kneelers – the kneelers are now in place in the Craven Chapel – please do come and take a look. Sincere thanks to everyone who helped with the stitching and to Charles Ash who kindly made and donated the stand. There will be a service of dedication on Sunday 20 January 2019 at 11am. The St Hubert banner will also be rededicated during this service.

Remembrance events – many thanks to everyone who helped to make our remembrance weekend such a success; so many people helped by reading, sharing memories, catering,

acting as marshal around the war memorial for the service on 11th and, of course, attending. It made for a very special and memorable weekend.

Breakfast groups – keeping to our new timetable, breakfast bible study will be held on 1 December and 2 February, but the men's breakfast on the last Saturday of the month will be taking a break until the end of January.

Bereavement Group – the group will meet again for six weeks from 22nd January 2019, in the vestry at St Andrew's church. For further information contact Norma Fergusson (710055) or Rose-Anne O'Hare (784017)

A message from the Shrivenham postmaster: Last UK posting dates: 2nd class 18th Dec, 1st class 20th Parcelforce Worldwide Express 21st, 22nd Special Delivery guaranteed. For overseas dates check online: postoffice.co.uk or at the Post Office.

Country Matters

Which is the grandest house in our village? One to which we are all welcome, one that is valued by the community but one that only a few regularly enter. It is of course our parish church, there for all, loved by the faithful few and except for recording momentous times along life's journey with the services of hatching, matching and dispatching irrelevant to so many in a largely secular society.

Yet when thieves come in the night committing dastardly deeds to desecrate and steal lead from the nave rooves of our churches nearly everyone who has a shred of community spirit feels a sense of violation and loss. I do. It's a sad fact that the damage done and cost of putting back is out of all proportion to the value stolen.

Round here lead theft has reached epidemic proportions. £1500 worth of lead was stolen at St Mary's Ashbury about seven years ago. With improvements it cost £60,000 to replace. Longcot church has had a section of Cotswold slates removed. Last year Sparsholt church lost lead. The most recent theft this October is at St Mary's Bishopstone. £150,000 may be needed to put this right. Baydon church has suffered, also in Wiltshire Pewsey, All Cannings and Tidcombe.

Most churches are insured with the Ecclesiastical Insurance Co, but they have capped their liabilities at under £10,000. The Historic Churches Trust has funds to help but only up to the same level. Raising over £100,000 at Bishopstone is a formidable challenge; pray for a miracle and have faith to correct this dreadful act.

There are cheaper alternatives available to using lead again. We had a fair battle but tern metal (stainless steel) was eventually used on the rear of St Mary's Ashbury and has weathered to a similar finish as lead. It is also less attractive to thieves. However English Heritage have been very slow and reluctant to sanction this, but surely this must change in the future. Legislation terminating cash payments at scrap yards was meant to put a stop to theft, but it is now said that lead now finds its way quickly across the channel bound for Romania where protection by painting on a smartwater finish onto the lead is proving an ineffective deterrent. I have concluded that all churches would be wise to install a modern roof security system.

Richard Green

Contacts

Ashbury Parish Council

Chairman Kate Watkins 01793 710440 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 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 **February** 2019. Submit your entries for February by **18th January** 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.