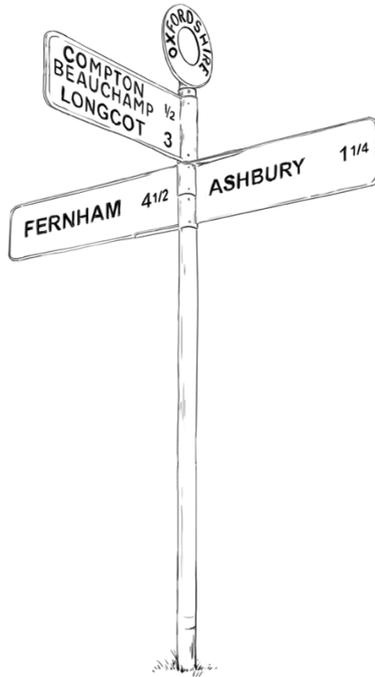


**ASHBURY  
COMPTON LONGCOT FERNHAM  
NEWS  
FEBRUARY 2019**



**Major Events this month**

**Comments invited on the Neighbourhood Plan until 28 Feb**

**Community Club 28 Feb**

## Thought for the month

A recent radio programme on 'Social Mobility' set me thinking. Why do we consistently under-value and under-pay those who do the jobs that the rest of us don't want to do - street-cleaners, dustmen, fruit/veg pickers etc.? Without them society would grind to a halt.

Social Mobility – the chance for anyone to 'move up the ladder' - is a great idea but what about those who fail to seize that opportunity through no fault of their own. Take education for example. The disadvantages can start in Primary School: Homework to do? Impossible in an overcrowded, tiny house with no books and no access to the internet for the research required on that term's project. Inattentive and slow in class lessons? Noisy siblings disturb sleep or the youngster may be acting as carer for a disabled parent and is late to bed each night. Bad at sport/gym? Hunger or undernourishment rob a child of energy.

The problems can continue during secondary education and when it comes to leaving school, even if you've tried your best, family pressure to immediately start earning precludes further education or training so you're relegated to the ranks of the unskilled.

No skills? Definitely not! As a student I had jobs as a waitress at Butlin's, and as a chamber maid and I worked in a factory and in an office and it was the regular workers who guided me as to what each task required – skills I didn't have but they did. As a teacher I also learnt that some children can be proud of a parent's job and may dream about being a dustman 'like my dad'. I have enormous respect for anyone who has skills that I don't possess and remember a particular pupil whose facility with money left me and everyone in the class amazed. At 8 years old he could calculate totals and give the right change in seconds. He helped in the family Funfair business by taking money for the rides. Because he only attended school during the winter his other skills - reading and writing for example - were way behind his peers' but I imagine that he went on to make a reasonable living from that 'unskilled' occupation.

How about making a belated New Year resolution - to respect all those doing the 'menial' jobs that keep our society running? Let's appreciate all that they do and ensure that they are properly paid and valued. God loves us all regardless of our social standing and Jesus certainly demonstrated that during his time on earth.

**Stella Tidmarsh**

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

## Ashbury News

**Community Club** We arrange events on the last Thursday of every month ranging from talks in the Village Hall to lunch at the Rose & Crown or visits to gardens, museums etc. Meetings are open to all and are a good way to meet and make friends. Any questions? **Phone Jackie on 710358.**

Thursday 31st January 2.30 - 4pm Travels of a Metallurgist

Peter Cowx will explain the science of Metallurgy and how it enabled him to find Gold and other metals amid the stunning scenery of Norway and China. An illustrated talk with raffle and refreshments. Visitors £2

Thursday 28th February 2.30 - 4pm "Gadgets"

Whether old or new, useful or useless - bring up to 3 gadgets to show & tell us about.

Also a review of last year, future plans, raffle, refreshments - £2

**Advance notice:** A summer date for your diary,

**Ashbury Village Fete and Car Boot Sale Saturday 29th June** 12noon - 4pm

On the village green.

Anyone interested in helping or having a stall please contact either Mary 710343, Diane 710309, Lorna 710972 or the shop 710068

Or email [info@ashburyshop.co.uk](mailto:info@ashburyshop.co.uk)

**Ashbury's tearoom and shop** Delicious lunches are now available. For more information see website <https://ashburyshop.co.uk/>

**Bead-making** - Saturday 9 February 9.30 am - 12.30 pm, Village Hall

An opportunity to make beads from scratch - £9. To book a place, or for more information, email **Margaret** at [mbsmith5@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mbsmith5@hotmail.co.uk)

**Watercolour painting** - Saturday 2 February 9.30-12.30, Village Hall

This is a self-help group with occasional guest tutors. The group meets on the first Saturday of each month. Anyone is welcome to attend. The cost varies depending on whether there is a tutor.

### Village Green Update

Many thanks to everyone who responded to the outline plan which was published in January (apologies that it did not reach everyone and if you would like a copy please make contact – details below). It was good to get general support for the project and also several constructive comments and suggestions – for example on the importance of sustainability and cleanliness, the proposed extension to the path, options for the playing field, and the need to make sure that any landscaping does not interfere with access now or in the future. All the comments will be taken into account as our thinking develops.

We're taking the project forward in stages so that we can involve as many people as possible. At present we're concentrating on the Playing Field and our targets are (1) To get quotes and apply for funding by the end of January (2) To carry out landscaping by the end of May so that the Green is fully available for the Village Fete (3) To produce a Playing Field ready for use in time for the School Sports Day in July. To offer comments or ask questions on plans for the Village Green please contact **Liz Derrington** (email [elizabethderrington45@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethderrington45@gmail.com) or telephone 710813).

### **Neighbourhood plan**

Comments invited on the Ashbury Neighbourhood Plan  
Ashbury Parish Council is working on a neighbourhood plan, which has been submitted to Vale of White Horse District Council.

We are inviting comments on the plan and supporting documents during a six-week publicity period from **Thursday 17 January until 5pm on Thursday 28 February 2019**.

You can view the neighbourhood plan and supporting documents at [www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/ashbury](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/ashbury)

**Hard copies are available to view at the Rose & Crown Inn, 3 High Street, Ashbury, Oxon, SN6 8NA between:**

Monday, 5:30pm - 10:30pm Tuesday to Thursday, 12 - 3pm & 5:30-11pm

Friday, 12 - 3pm & 5 - 11pm Saturday, 12 - 11pm Sunday, 12 - 7pm

The documents are also available to view at Vale of White Horse District Council's office, 135 Eastern Avenue, Milton Park, Abingdon, OX14 4SB between 8.30am and 5pm Monday to Thursday and 8.30am to 4.30pm on Fridays. If you wish to arrange an alternative way to view the documents, please contact [planning.policy@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:planning.policy@whitehorsedc.gov.uk)

### **How to comment:**

We encourage you to use our online questionnaire which is available here:

<https://survey.southandvale.gov.uk/s/AshburyNP/>

Responses can also be made by:

emailing [planning.policy@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:planning.policy@whitehorsedc.gov.uk)

writing to Vale of White Horse District Council at the above address

completing a comment form (available at the above venue) and posting or emailing it back to us

To view the full announcement please visit the Ashbury website or see the posted version on the parish notice-boards.

## Church Matters

**Ashbury:** Services are at 11am on Feb 3rd, 10th, (at Free Church) 17th (Café Church) and 24th at St Mary's.

**Compton:** 9am on Feb 3rd and 17th.

**Longcot:** 3 pm on Feb 3rd, (joint service in the Chapel), 9.30am on 10th and 24th. 6pm on 17th.

**Fernham:** 3pm. on Feb 3rd (join with Longcot) 9am on 10th and 17th, 6pm on 24th.

The Ashbury prayer cycle for February will be: 3<sup>rd</sup>, Pound Piece, 10<sup>th</sup>, Station Road, 17<sup>th</sup>, Malthouses, 24<sup>th</sup>, Walnut Trees Hill.

### Ashbury Evangelical Free Church

February 10th at 11.00 a.m. Communion, joined by St Marys,

Tea and chat Wednesday 6th and 20th at 2.15pm. Everyone is welcome!!

## Fernham

Thanks to the residents of Fernham who raised £148.21. for the British Legion Poppy Appeal. Ken Diccox

### Longcot Churches working together -Chapel News

**SUN. 3rd** 3pm -Rev'd Keith Osborn will be leading our special service as we celebrate the 22nd anniversary of the re-dedication of the chapel and tea will be served afterwards. Everyone is welcome to join us for both.

**FRI. 25th** 3pm T Time Fellowship. A warm welcome awaits anyone who is free to join us as we enjoy chatting (and laughing) over afternoon tea which will include hot, buttered crumpets!

## Around the Benefice

As this is the first magazine of the New Year, this seemed appropriate:

Lord, as we reflect on the year behind us, we remember the highs and lows, the joys and sorrows, those who are close to us and those we miss. We thank you for your faithful love, now and in the past. As we think about the year ahead, we pray that your love, peace and hope will fill us and overflow into the lives of those around us, as we become all that you've created us to be. In Jesus' name - Amen.

**Breakfast Groups** –it's not too late to make it your new year's resolution to join us First Saturday of the month - **Breakfast Bible Study**, a chance to meet and talk about the bible readings set for the following week over coffee and a continental style

breakfast. We meet next at 8am on 2 February is at Tower Lodge, Church Lane, Ashbury; please phone Norma on 710055 to let us know if you would like to come along

Last Saturday of the month - **Men's breakfast**, also at 8am but this is a full English in the Village Hall. The next one is on 23 February; please phone Norma on 710055 if you would like to join us. No charge.

## **Café Church**

in Ashbury's Village Shop



**Sunday, 17 February at 11am**

(No service in St Mary's that day)

## **Update on the vacancy**

Many of you will know this already but – just in case: we did not call anyone for interview and have decided to re-advertise at the end of this month. The closing date for applications is 27 February. I am most grateful to the churchwardens and everyone who helped make our Christmas services so special and who continue to support the work of the benefice. Please keep us all in your prayers

**Norma**

## **Another timely message from the Fire Brigade**

**Nearly 50% of all chimney fires in Oxfordshire** happen during January, February and March. If you enjoy cosying up in front of a log fire, make sure the sparks don't fly at home this winter.

Have a cosy home not a fire zone **Get your chimney swept at least once a year**; if you regularly have log fires get it swept more frequently. If you have a 1st floor fireplace check that it is clear of debris **Store logs away from the fireplace.**

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

## **Country Matters**

Writing in January as a mostly retired farmer I am lucky enough to be frequently walking across a great deal of farmland stretching from Cornwall to Yorkshire carrying a gun. I am struck not only by the increasing number of dry Januarians I meet but also by how dry it is underfoot. Some racecourses are actually watering, unheard of after Christmas! The little river Lambourn has disappeared. I am afraid we need some rain soon or we will probably be in for a wet late spring like last year. And if we don't we will be in for echoes of 1975 and the very dry '76.

The signs of spring emerging are there, if you have eyes to see, despite the dry spell. Yellow "lamb's tails" or catkins hang from hazel bushes, snow drops and now my aconites are beginning to show their respective white and bright yellow petals. Daffodils are certainly coming and there are reports of them already in flower in early gardens. We were given an amaryllis plant for Christmas. It is placed before our kitchen window and we marvel at its progress. Its lime green erect sheath grows an inch a day, certainly another portent of spring. Richard Jefferies, our local Victorian countryside author from Coate Water wrote *Amaryllis at the Fair*, a story of a girl by that name with all the hope and expectations of spring and youth.

Perhaps I have more time to listen now but each morning I am struck, as never before, by the wonderful melody of blackbirds singing from a high perch in our garden and they have been at it vociferously since December. Another certain early sound of spring are woodpeckers drumming as they search for a mate and establish their territory. Crows float around on the downs paired and ready for breeding, not yet nesting but probably not far from their chosen tree site. On a fine day rooks will begin to get really noisy and start to put a few twigs as the start of their rookery nests. I think magpies have already started on their bread basket constructions. I even saw an egret this December in the dingle below the Old Mill at Bishopstone. On the farm it's a quiet time. We are fencing, servicing machinery, looking after our cattle and loading out grain. I have been filling in a few gaps in hedges with new saplings.

**Richard Green**

## Contacts

### **Ashbury Parish Council**

Chairman Kate Watkins 01793 710440 [chairman@ashbury.org.uk](mailto:chairman@ashbury.org.uk)

Clerk to the council: Laura Evans email [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 interregnum (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 **March** 2019. Submit your entries for March by **15<sup>th</sup> February** 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.