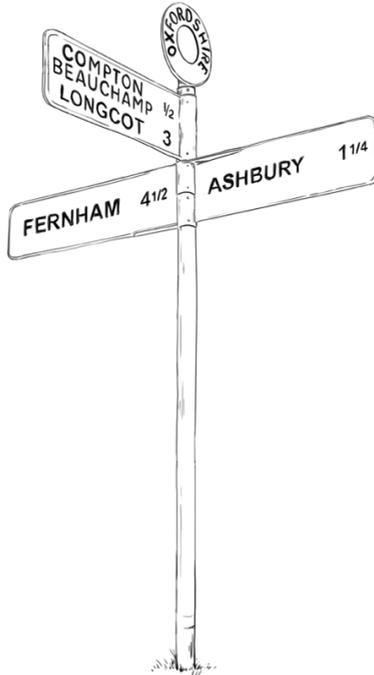


ASHBURY COMPTON LONGCOT FERNHAM NEWS

FEBRUARY 2020



Major Events this month

**27th Ashbury Community Club
29th Village Green Tree Planting**

Thought for the month

I know that for a lot of people January and February can seem quite depressing and for some very seriously so but there are signs of better times to come if we allow ourselves to look for them. I was recently able to spend an hour or so doing some tidying up jobs in my small courtyard garden and was pleasantly surprised by changes which had happened since I last spent any time out there.

Poking through patches of bare (and very damp earth) were the leafy spears of snowdrops, narcissi, crocuses and even the odd tulip; bare branches on shrubs and pruned roses have buds on them and I found wood lice scrambling about under dead leaves. Despite the damp, cold and often dark days signs of life are there to remind us of better times ahead. And what's the source of all this? LIGHT! It's the driving force behind all life and God certainly appreciated that when he was designing our world. On the first day of creation he declared that there should be light and only after that was established did plants, animals and finally people appear.

In Haydn's oratorio 'The Creation' the first chorus builds to a thrilling climax with the singers declaring at the tops of their voices 'Let there be light'. Just as in the very beginning, God is in control of every aspect of our world despite man's best efforts to spoil it all. If we can hold on to that we know that winter won't last too much longer. Slowly but surely the days are lengthening and will gradually become warmer with those bulbs and buds bursting into life and delighting us with their colour and scent. As the poet Shelley wrote 'If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?' We can't have one without the other so let's appreciate each season as it comes and remember to be thankful for them all.

Stella Tidmarsh

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

Ashbury News

FROM ASHBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Community Bus Service

We can report good news: the Parish Council has arranged for a replacement to the shopperbus service. It will take over from 1st April 2020, when the current service ends. The APC will be working with UBW (the Uffington Community Bus Association),

using the minibus owned and managed by them. The service will run locally between our parish and Swindon centre on Friday afternoons, and will accept pensioners bus passes or will cost £5.80 return – the same as the current shopperbus.

We would strongly encourage all current users — or anyone that feels this service might be of use — to inform a member of the council or ring either Peter Cowx [710 251], James Reade [710 208] or Cliff Davies [710 712] as soon as possible to receive a registration form and further details.

Volunteer drivers are needed to operate the service. To avoid imposing too much on peoples' goodwill a minimum of 5 drivers would be ideal. Drivers should be over 21 and hold a D1 [minibus] permit on their driver licence. (Most regular licences grant this automatically. You can check the list in point 9 at the bottom of your license to see if yours does.) There are some additional, very straightforward, requirements for volunteers over 70.

We also need 5 non-driving assistants. The key requirement for assistants is a cheery personality. Their main tasks will be (1) to assist less able users of the service to access/exist the bus and (2) complete a simple journey log for record purposes.

Full support and 'training' will be provided for all volunteers and we will also be making a demonstration run or two to familiarise volunteers with the route.

Although everything is in place, the service will not be able to start unless people step forward and volunteer to help. If you are willing to volunteer in either capacity, or even to join the organising sub-committee, please get in touch with Peter, James or Cliff as above for more complete details. Once we have a list of drivers we will hold a meeting to explain things thoroughly.

ASHBURY VILLAGE GREEN TREE TRAIL – Another chance to sponsor a tree

Next planting: **Saturday 29 February**

We're getting ready to plant a second lot in about a month's time. The trees, like the ones planted in December, will be good-sized specimens 2 to 3 metres tall and fully protected and supported to make sure they get the best possible start. So for those groups or individuals who have been considering sponsoring a tree, here is another chance!

A list of the trees available (with short descriptions of each type of tree) is attached. To sponsor or adopt one of them or for more information please contact Liz Derrington (email elizabethderrington45@gmail.com or phone 710813).

ASHBURY COMMUNITY CLUB

We are a friendly group who meet on the last Thursday afternoon of each month for a talk or maybe an outing / lunch.

Everyone is welcome to come along - it's a good way to meet and make friends and always involves tea & biscuits.

It costs just £2 per visit, although you can become a member for £20 / year which entitles you to discounts on outings or lunches.

Thursday 30th January 2.30pm. Ashbury Village Hall

"History of Toys" with Roger Baker who will bring examples of classic old toys from our childhood years.

Thursday 27th February 2.30pm. Ashbury Village Hall

"One step ahead of Fraud"

Expert advice on understanding how scams work and how to avoid becoming a victim.

NB: Save the Date! Ashbury's Village Hall Quiz Night : Saturday, March 28th

The Bible Course

The Bible – what does that mean to you? A book for church on Sundays full of old stories or a guide to our lives? Perhaps you have never considered it? It is big, complicated in places and challenging. What it is not is dull, with all of life contained in it.

The Bible Course is a great resource, whether you are familiar with the Bible or just starting out. This eight-session course based around video and discussion will help you to explore the world's bestseller. It is going to run on Wednesday mornings at 10.30 in The Evangelical Free Church in Ashbury, from Wednesday 12th February to Wednesday 1st April inclusive. We will start with tea and coffee and finish no later than 12.15.

Please come along to the first session to see if you like it and then join us as often as you can. If you are unable to come to our Wednesday mornings the same course is going to be run at the Shrivenham Methodist church on Sunday evenings at 6.30 starting on Feb. 16th.

For more information contact: Maggie Simons 01793 710801 or Graham Weller 01793 710665

Longcot and Fernham

A Last Thank-you to Ross

As we dismantled the Christmas tree in the church, we were sad to hear the news of the sudden death of Ross Muir. For several years now he has supplied and sponsored the Christmas tree in the chancel. Thanks to Ross and Alan Rich, who collected and put up the tree, again this year we have had a magnificent tall and beautifully shaped tree to decorate as the centre piece of our candlelit carol service.

A resident of many years in Bourton, and recently Shrivenham, Ross was well known locally as an agricultural contractor, but to the flower arrangers of Longcot, he was our Christmas tree man! Thank you, Ross for your kind generosity and may you rest in peace.

The Longcot Church flower team.

Fernham:The Annual British Legion Poppy Collection in the village of Fernham raised the sum of £175.15. Thank you to all those who supported this very worthy cause.

Kenneth Diccox

Church Matters

Sunday Services for February

Date	Ashbury	Ambassadors /AEFC	Longcot	Fernham	Compton
2nd Feb	11.am Morning Worship	10am Morning Worship 6pm Growth Course	3pm Chapel Joint Service	-	9am Holy Communion (BCP)
9th Feb	11.am Holy Communion	10.am and 6pm as above	9.30am Holy Communion	-	-
16th Feb.	11am Café Church. James Reade on Aid	10am and 6pm as above	6pm Evening Worship	-	9am Matins
23rd Feb	11am Holy Communion	10am and 6pm as above	9.30am Family Communion	-	-

In addition-Midweek services/ gatherings

Benefice-

Mondays 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th February-10am Alpha course at Shrivenham Methodist Church (contact- Jane Ahern-783521)

Wednesdays 12th, 19th, 26th February- 10.30am- Bible Society course at Ashbury Free Church (contact Graham Weller -710665). Please see separate item on this elsewhere in the newsletter

Ashbury- St. Mary's

Thursday 6th February- 8am- said Morning Prayer

Thursday 13th February - 11am- short said service of Holy Communion in the Celtic tradition

Thursday 20th February - 8am- said Morning Prayer

Thursday 27th February 8am- said Morning Prayer

Prayer cycle- for February - 2nd Odstone Farm & Cottages, 9th Pound Piece, 16th Station Road 23rd The Malthouses

Ashbury- Evangelical Free Church

Wednesdays 5th, 19th February- 2.15pm- Tea & chat-Everyone is welcome

Longcot- St. Mary's-

Subject to other pastoral commitments, Evening Prayer is normally said at 5pm on Tuesdays

Fernham – St John's

Saturday, 8th February- 11.30am Family service

Longcot churches working together – Chapel news

Sunday 2nd February 3pm- This month's service will be led by Mrs Sheila Knowles and we shall be celebrating the 24th anniversary of the re-dedication of the chapel following its extension and refurbishment.

Everyone is most welcome to join us and to stay for tea afterwards.

Friday 28th February- 3pm T Time Fellowship. Do come along and enjoy afternoon tea in good company,

Everyone is welcome. There is no charge but donations to our chosen charity will be much appreciated

Country Matters

Writing at the start of a New Year and decade it's good to look forward but first back. Eastbrook dairy cows went walkabout on Boxing Day, exploring village footpaths and some gardens. It's mischievous to suggest they may have enjoyed a festive tipples too much as they left their mark. From my own experience when I was milking cows in my youth, I know it's very easy to leave a gate open when you have had a jar! Of all our villages Bishopstone is the last to still have a dairy farm amongst houses, so very different from 50 years ago. Even Tony Juniper of Natural England concedes that grazing animals are not bad for the environment.

Looking forward, most farms will have plenty of muddles to rectify when the really dry weather arrives. Lots of fields have been only partly planted as it became impossibly wet. Tender soil structures have been trashed, requiring patience and time, even until next autumn in places. Our livestock sales are already affected by the vegan crusade though I read that this fad is difficult to sustain over time with some health risks. It's not for me! Lamb exports to France post Brexit are threatened by tariffs when we leave the EU. Some of our chemical aids that formerly protected our crops are being removed from the market to pose further challenges. Minimal cultivation, building earthworm activity near the surface relies on glyphosate (roundup) for weed control. If this product became off label here as may be likely in Germany under pressure from the Green Party, ploughing would feature a comeback but ironically this would be a backward step in terms of extra energy costs with more carbon being released. The effect would be nothing short of momentous to arable farming.

Our new environment minister Theresa Villiers is speaking at the Oxford Farming Conference this January and is expected to chart the way ahead for this parliament. We look forward to the support of government in the Brexit trade talks that will maintain our points of difference, protecting our environment and welfare standards here against lower quality imports. If we suffer export tariffs we cannot take imports tariff free. Fingers crossed. But we will have to tick more boxes to earn our future production support. In preparation we are engaging FWAG (Farm, Wildlife and Advisory Group) to produce a report on our natural farm capital that will identify these "public goods" on our farm. These will be trees, nectar and wild bird cover, hedges, walls, flowers, butterflies, birds, ponds, water courses, landscape features, historical remains, rights of way, permitted access, perhaps others. It's sure to be a brave new world with plenty of new challenges.

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

House-for-Duty -vacancy

Church warden: Maggie Simons 01793 710801

Secretary: Roger Simons 01793 710801 rogersimons1@outlook.com

Vicar (Shrivenham) Revd Norma Fergusson 01793 784338

rev.n.fergusson@btinternet.com (not Monday)

Ashbury Village Hall

Maggie Simons 0193 710801 maggiemsimons@outlook.com

Secretary Margaret Smith 01793 710800 of

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

Preschool Headteacher Rachael Smith 01793 710259 www.

<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: David Johnston:

david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk Tel: 0207 219 3000

Newsletter entries for March 2020 .Submit your entries for **March** by **17th February**

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.