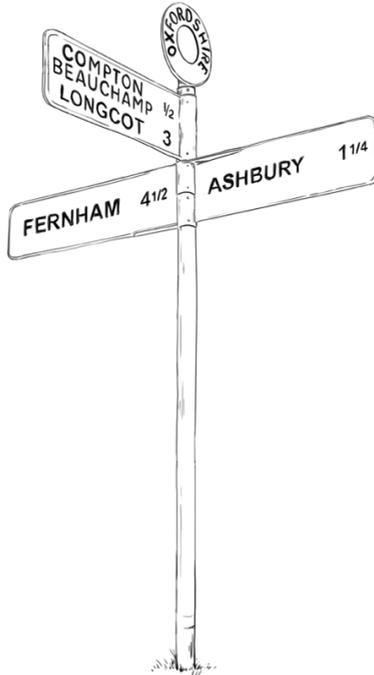


ASHBURY COMPTON LONGCOT FERNHAM NEWS

MAY 2019



Major Events this month

Longcot flower festival and concert
Ashbury Safari supper
Beating the Bounds

Thought for the month

Four very different pieces of writing have struck me in the past few weeks. In a recent Sunday paper there were heart-rending pictures and accounts of children of militant fighters in Northern Syria, many of whom were orphans and described as “children whose Isis parents had chosen to starve them under the bombs in their caliphate’s final days rather than escape to safety.” The children were for the most part severely malnourished and their identities unknown; they could be French, Pakistani, Kyrgyz, Indonesian, British. Whatever our political or religious beliefs, the plight of these innocent children surely arouses in us anger, pity and helplessness, coupled as it is by daily news stories of other human tragedies such as Cyclone Idai. Most of us are not in a position to offer direct help in any of these situations although we can contribute through mechanisms such as the Disasters Emergency Committee or, in May, via Christian Aid Week.

Thanks to our wonderful library in the Kingston Winslow telephone kiosk I discovered some counterbalance to the daily stories of conflict and suffering in a novel by Ian McEwan, set on one day in February 2003 and titled “Saturday”. Assessing the gloomy world view which prevailed then, the young adult son of the main character expresses it thus: “when we go on about the big things, the political situation, global warming, world poverty, it all looks really terrible, with nothing getting better, nothing to look forward to. But when I think small, closer in – you know, a girl I’ve just met, or this song we’re going to do with Chas, or snowboarding next month, then it looks great. So this is going to be my motto – think small.”

This doesn’t mean I should stop reading the news, or giving to charity, or joining with others to pray about world situations, but we have so much around us, especially in spring, to be thankful for and enjoy. The opening lines of W.H. Davies’ poem “Leisure” are well known but I am also reminded of the closing lines:

“A poor life this if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare”.

“Thinking small”, as the young man in “Saturday” advises, is not about ignoring the bigger picture, it’s about not missing the little things around us. And returning to those silent, nameless infants above, the best piece of writing I have encountered this week are the words of Matthew 10:29, which in paraphrase I hope reassures us that those lives which are unknowable to us and seemingly worthless, are known and matter to our and their heavenly father.

“Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care.”

Isobel Weller

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

Ashbury News

Churchyard Spring clean

Thanks to the time and work given by 25 people from across Ashbury & Kingstone Winslow, it was possible to carry out our annual community spring clean of the New & Old Churchyards ,getting them ready for the coming year. All areas of the churchyards were worked on with a very satisfactory outcome, ready for the regular maintenance work carried out by the groundworks contractors who carry out grass cutting and strimming generally twice a month during the coming months.

Ashbury village fete and car boot sale -29th June 12-4pm

URGENTLY REQUIRED

Help running stalls and stewarding on the day.

Donations of old crockery for smash the plates, donations for the white elephant stall.

Please contact **Diane on 710309**

Or use the sign-up sheet in the village shop.

Beat the Bounds 2019

Meet on Sunday May 5th at 8.30 am in front of the pub. Following an Ashbury tradition that is over 1,000 years old, on May the 5th we'll be having our annual 'Beat the Bounds' walk. Historically used to confirm the boundaries of the parish, we take a more relaxed view these days and don't quite do the entire boundary. Everyone is welcome, including children and dogs, and you come for as much of the walk as you like. More info on the website

at <http://www.ashbury.org.uk/leisure/welcomeevents/beat-the-bounds-walk/> or call Steve Treadwell on 710369. Come and explore the parish with lovely views of the downs and vale that you will only ever experience on foot.

Reminder :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 (judithannclarke@sky.com) or call 710305.**

Ashbury Community Club

Thursday 30th May. 2.30pm Village Hall

"Secrets and Spies at Coleshill"

A talk by Stewart Smith followed by tea & biscuits.

Visitors most welcome. £2.

further info. from Jackie Baker tel. 710358

Village Green Update

There's been more good news on funding for the village playing field this month, with an award of £2,500 from Oxfordshire's Councillors Priority Fund. Many thanks to our

local councillor Yvonne Constance for her support! We're still keeping our fingers crossed for positive responses from the National Lottery and Sport England.

In the meantime we are applying the Calor Community Fund (which covers areas without mains gas) for money to launch another part of the Village Green project – planting a collection of UK native trees. This will harmonise the Green with the local landscape, help us all learn the names of the trees (some of which I bet will surprise you), attract more birds, insects and wild animals. It will also enable us to set aside a space on the Green for plaques to remember and celebrate local people and events. This commemorative space, as well as being in a sheltered spot amongst the trees, will have seats and sculptures (probably living willow sculptures). Each person who puts up a plaque will be invited to make a donation for future development and upkeep of the Green.

I suggested last month that we should all work together to make the Green clean and safe for children to play on. I did not hear from anyone who disagreed, so I hope that we are all firmly on board in support of this objective. I'm pleased to say that we now have posters designed by children at the school – congratulations to the winners of our competition! - to remind us in case we forget. The Village Green group is still looking into waste disposal options but hasn't made a firm decision yet on the way forward.

If you have comments, questions or ideas about the Village Green, especially on the plan for commemorative plaques, please contact Liz Derrington (email elizabethderrington45@gmail.com or phone 710813)

Longcot News

Longcot in bloom Flower Festival Saturday 11 - Sunday 19 May

The church will be open 11 – 6 each day.

The flowers will reflect music in its many forms. Whether you enjoy classical or pop music, nursery rhymes or ballads there will be something for everyone.

Again this year the festival is held during **Oxfordshire Artweeks** and three studios are open in the village. Emma Ablitt and Helen Pakeman are exhibiting in the Methodist Chapel, Pat Elmore is at Nutford Lodge and Sharon Rich at Henleaze Farm Bungalow. Details www.artweeks.org

We hope you will come and enjoy the art and flowers on show in the village.
Shirley sdm57@btinternet.com

Spring family concert Saturday 18 May at 6pm

A special family concert given by the Clarinet Collective a versatile group of professional clarinetists who also work freelance with some of London's leading orchestras. The programme will consist of short items in a wide range of musical styles to link in with the theme of this year's flower festival. Tchaikovsky's Sleeping Beauty Walz, Bizet's Carmen Suite, the famous Flower Duet by Delibes, Fats Waller's Honeysuckle Rose, I Got Rhythm by Gershwin and, especially for the younger members of the audience, Teddy Bears Picnic.

Bar open before the concert and at the interval.

ADMISSION FREE - donations in aid of the Longcot Village Trust fundraising to create a new community space in St Mary's church.

Watch this space! Longfest: Community Summer Music Festival 22nd June 7-11pm

Tickets www.FACEBOOK.COM/LONGFEST2019 £10/£5 under 18. All proceeds to Village.

Church Matters

Ashbury: St Mary's services are at **11am** each Sunday except **N.B.** 12th May, at Free church, 19th Café church.

Compton: **9am** on May 5th and 19th.

Longcot: **3 pm** on May 5th - joint service in the Chapel. **9.30am** on 12th and 26th; **6pm** on 19th.

Fernham: **3pm.** on May 5th (join with Longcot) **9am** on 12th and 19th, **6pm** on 26th.

The Ashbury prayer cycle for May will be: 5th Idstone Road, 12th, Idstone, 19th Kingstone Winslow, 26th, Malthouse Close.

Ashbury Evangelical Free Church

May 12th at 11.00 a.m. Communion.

Tea and chat Wednesday 8th and 22nd at 2.15pm. Everyone is welcome!!

Longcot Churches working together -Chapel News

Sun. **5th 3pm** -This month's united service will be led by Revd Norma Fergusson. Everyone is welcome to join us and to stay for tea and biscuits afterwards.

Fri. **26th 3pm** -T Time Fellowship. There will be a warm welcome for anyone wishing to join us for afternoon tea. There is no charge but donations to charity are welcome. If transport would help or you need to know more please ring **Stella Tidmarsh** on **01793 782584**.

Around the Benefice

Breakfast Groups

will meet as usual on the first (Bible Study) and last (Men's breakfast) Saturdays of the month. Contact Norma on 710055 for more details.

Vacancy

The new advertisement for our vicar was placed in the Church Times in April. God willing we will be shortlisting applicants on 7 May and interviewing on 29 May. Please keep this process in your prayers.

SHRIVENHAM BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT

Starting on Tuesday 14th May, 2.30 till 4 pm in St Andrew's Church vestry. Second session will be on June 25th.

Many of us have experienced a bereavement and we know it can be difficult to come to terms with the loss and cope with the grief. Our bereavement support afternoons will provide informal get-togethers for anyone who has been bereaved at any time. A friendly, casual environment with a cuppa and cake will encourage self-help and mutual support. There will be occasional speakers to talk on subjects aimed to help in the inevitable life adjustments. It is open to all, regardless of faith or beliefs. Please contact Norma (710055) for more details - or just come along .

Choral Evensong

Choral Evensong will be celebrated in St Mary's Church, Longcot, on Sunday 19 May at 6pm as part of the Flower Festival. Do come and join us for this special celebration of music, flowers and fellowship.

Thank you

To everyone who helped with our Easter services and made the churches look so lovely.

Norma

Country Matters

I heard the first chiffchaff on March 20, the same day that the Bishopstone dairy cows went out to grass for the first time. I wake every morning hearing woodpeckers and believe we have more about these days, both greater spotted and green. There are two pairs of Canada geese on our pond at Zulu and walking back a snipe rose from a meadow.

Squirrels are like marmite; they are loved or hated. To foresters they are bad news and they have done much damage to the silver birch in the millennium wood planted by Helen Browning between Bishopstone and Idstone. But they can be fascinating. I once got up very early to discover what culprit was killing young released pheasant poults, and motionless at vigil two inquisitive squirrels came very close to me, making a quiet mewling sound. As a young teenager I was always climbing trees on our farm at Shellingford and yes, in those days collecting birds' eggs was not illegal. One only took one and tried not to disturb the nest. Climbing to this nest I was horrified to find not eggs but a nest of young tree rats with hairless tails.

In the 50's Harold Macmillan was a minister with responsibility for rebuilding the nation's forestry after the war and inaugurated a scheme paying a shilling (5p) a squirrel tail. With my brother we saw squirrels going into a hole in a smallish dead tree. We set fire to the tree and shot six as they emerged with our .410 gun which father had given me after purchasing it from John Betjeman, no less, who then lived at Uffington. These rather gruesome trophies were then packaged and dispatched to the Ministry of Agriculture at Oxford for our reward!

The countryside journalist Robin Page and Prince Charles have both campaigned for our native red squirrels now threatened by greys introduced from North America in the late 19th century and also by squirrel pox, carried by greys but fatal to reds. We have seen them many times in Scotland. Fairly recently we stayed at a farm B&B near Gretna Green where the farmer had a nature trail and was trapping greys to preserve his red squirrel numbers. He was distraught that he had trapped a red that for some reason had expired despite his frequent daily visits. They are protected from 1981 and also flourish on Anglesey and on the Isle of Wight. We were chuffed to view one this February in a park with splendid conifers at Tarbes in south west France.

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 **June** 2019. Submit your entries for June by **17th May** 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.