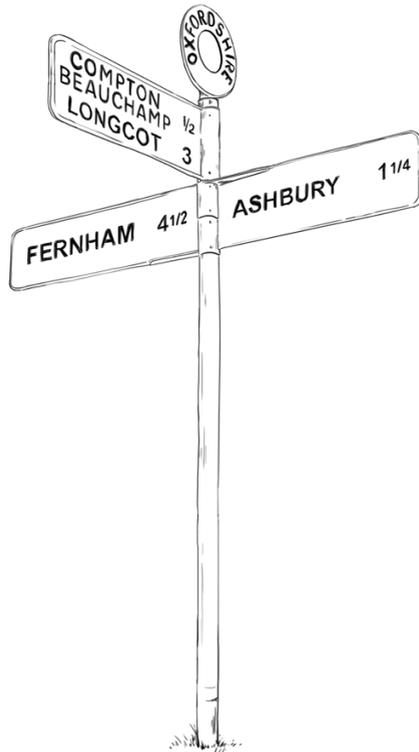


**ASHBURY
COMPTON LONGCOT FERNHAM
NEWS
November 2018**



Major Events this month

WW1 Centenary: Peace and Cake 10th 4.30pm, Remembrance Services 11th, Beacon lighting 7pm

Ashbury Parish Council Meeting 12th 7.30pm

Ashbury St Mary's Christmas Bazaar 24th 2pm

Thought for the month

The most important 5 minutes

A few years ago I learnt that a good friend of mine, who I was at boarding school with for nine years, and shared a dormitory with for several of these, had been given about six months to live following a diagnosis of cancer, he lived for almost two years but then died.

At the centenary of the end of the First World War and as we remember those who died in that and all other wars we are reminded of the sacrifices these people made for us.

These two, seemingly unconnected events have made me ponder on the frailty of life in both war and peace. It reminded me of some graffiti I once saw, which said, "The first five minutes of life are the most dangerous" ..to which someone else had added "the last five are pretty dodgy too!"

Most of us have no idea when our last five minutes will be and when our earthly lives will end, so it is all the more important to be prepared. My friend was are you?

Andrew Bunce

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

Ashbury News

Ashbury Primary School Open Afternoon On 21st November 2018 1:00pm-2:30pm Ashbury Primary School warmly invites parents and carers to come and visit our friendly village school. If your children are born between 1st September 2014 and 31st August 2015, come and see our school in action and experience what we can offer your child. Please call 01793 710259 during school hours to book a tour slot.

Ashbury Parish Council- 12 November 7.30 pm, Village Hall. Open to all.

Reminder: Sir William Cash Trustees invite applications (**from Ashbury Parish only**) before the meeting on Friday 9th. Enquiries marionlturner@me.com/710302

Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy Sale. Many thanks to everyone who came along on 15 September. The total raised during the morning was £225.17. This cleared £132.80 owing for the damp-proofing of the textile map, and the balance has been paid into the Village Hall account and 'ring-fenced' in case it might be needed for future work on the map.

Ashbury School Fundraising - In anticipation of everyone starting their Christmas online shopping, the Friends of Ashbury School would like to request that you register with Easyfundraising.org.uk and select Ashbury School as your cause. Any retailers you shop with through it will donate a % of your spend to our village school. Happy Shopping!

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.

Beacon lighting - Sunday 11 November 7 pm, White Horse Hill Commemorative beacon lighting to mark the end of the First World War 100 years ago.

Christmas mosaic workshop- 1 December, 1.30-4.30 pm, Village Hall By popular request Lucy Cooke will be returning. This time we will be making Christmas decorations. The cost is £8, plus £3 for each additional item made. To book your place please email mbsmith5@hotmail.co.uk

Ashbury Farmers' Market 25th November Village Hall 11am -1pm

Ashbury Community Club Thursday 29th November. 2.30pm This month's speaker will be our local vet, Donna Stacey. She will be talking to us about What Makes a Dog. Everyone welcome. £2: Includes refreshments.

Ashbury Village Hall Management Committee needs a new treasurer. Do you think you would like to support the village hall in this way? OR know anyone who would be able to take on this role? If so please contact Maggie Simons 710801.

Bishopstone with Hinton Parva WI - On Tuesday 6th November we have an Art Study Day in Wanborough with Jenny Lyall, NADFAS art historian and Marlborough Summer school lecturer. Art Lovers – please contact. Patricia Wells 01793 790054

Thursday 8th November we warmly welcome our local dairy farmer and milk producer Josette Fiddes of Jo-Jo's milk, Lotmead Farm

Thursday 13th December we celebrate Christmas in Bishopstone village hall at 7pm with supper, lots of puddings, wine and live entertainment with singer Stuart Burnley and his band. Please contact Maggie Simons if you would like any further information.

Go Active Gold - Beginner Pilates Classes at Ashbury Village Hall arranged by V.W.H.D.C. Starts Tuesday 16th October for 10 weeks 11.30am-12.30pm. £5.00 per session. Improve your strength, flexibility and balance.

Yoga class in Ashbury Village Hall on Wednesday mornings from 10am–11am Starting 31st October for 6 weeks For more information on either of these classes please contact Neeraj Hargun 07717 346351 or email:Neeraj.hargun@southandvale.gov.uk or Maggie Simons 710801.

Thank you to all those who gave their time in October to help get the church really clean. I think we confused some of the spiders but at the end it looked lovely. **Maggie.**

Church Christmas Bazaar – Saturday 24 November 2 pm

This is St Mary's main fundraising event of the year, and we would be very grateful for your support by providing items to sell. These can either be left at the Village Hall during the morning of the Bazaar, or prior to that given to the following:

Cakes: Clare McGlashan (710754)/ Les Fitchett

Bric-a-Brac: Peggy Leon (710273) Gifts: Anne Taylor (710051)/ Claire Routley

Bottles: Nigel & Marion Jefferys (710526) Books: Marion Turner (710302)/ Julia Blake

Children's Toys: Julia Blake (710776) Jewellery: Anne Disbury (710396)

Raffle prizes: Margaret Smith (710800)/ Audrey Tilling

Other stalls include: Children's Games - Bill/Diane Lovegrove, Teas – Jane Worrall/Nina Tombs. As in previous years raffle tickets will be sold door-to-door prior to the Bazaar. Any other general enquiries please contact Roger Simons (710801)

We look forward to seeing you on 24th

Harvest Festival Produce. The Women's Refuge were delighted with all the dried, packet, canned and fresh goods given to them after the Church and School Harvest Festivals. Thank you everyone for your support.

The Prospect Hospice is looking for local people to support funding for a new nurse: please look at www.prospect-hospice.net or phone 01793 815815

NB some items held over for lack of space this month-see December's issue.

Church Matters

Ashbury: Services are at 11am on 4th and 25th, at St Mary's, Café Church on 18th, 11th at 10am jointly at AEFC, followed by Act of Remembrance at War Memorial 10.50am.

Compton: 9am on 4th and 18th Remembrance service at 10.50am on 11th.

Longcot: 3.00pm on 4th, 10.30am Remembrance on 11th, 6pm on 18th, 9.30am on 25th

Fernham: 9.00am. on 4th, 11th (Remembrance) and 25th, 6.00pm on 18th.

The Ashbury prayer cycle for November will be: 4th, Ashbury Hill, 11th, Berrycroft, 18th Berrycroft Lane, 25th, Chapel Lane.

Ashbury Evangelical Free Church

Sunday 11th at 10.00 a.m. Joint Communion, followed by War Memorial service Wednesday 7th and 21st at 2.15pm. tea & chat. Everyone is welcome!!

Longcot Churches working together

Sun. 4th 3pm Revd Norma Fergusson will be leading our monthly United Service in The Chapel and everyone is welcome. Tea and biscuits will be served after the service.

Fri. 30th 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.

Around the Benefice

WANTED: new treasurer for the Longcot with Fernham Parochial Church Council (PCC) with effect from 31 January 2019. This is a voluntary position with responsibility for maintaining a full and accurate record of all income and expenditure for the PCC using Receipts and Payments Accounting. There is no requirement to attend church regularly, but you would be expected to attend meetings of the PCC (about 5 times per annum). The current treasurer will work with you for the first couple of months and help with any questions you may have. Advice and guidance is also available from the Diocese. For further information please contact Keith Reid on 01793 783324

THANK YOU FOR THE HARVEST FESTIVAL PRODUCE

Everyone was delighted to receive all the dried, packet, canned and fresh goods from our Church and School Harvest Festivals. Thanks to everyone for your generosity and to Margaret Smith for delivering all the produce from the Ashbury services.

SHOEBOX SUNDAY 25 November at 11am

This year we are working with Ashbury School and Operation Christmas Child to send shoeboxes to children in over 130 countries who would not otherwise have Christmas gifts. The idea is to pack a medium sized shoebox with a Christmas card and small gifts suitable for a boy or girl aged 2-4, 5-9 or 10-14. If you don't want to pack a whole shoebox, contributions of individual items would be wonderful. They suggest small toys like a doll or a teddy or a football (with a pump!), stationery, picture books toiletries – toothpaste, soap, flannel, knitted hat or scarf, sweets, **or visit Samaritans-purse.org.uk/occ**. Shoeboxes can be delivered to church on 25 November or to Norma at St Mary's House, Chapel Lane, Ashbury for delivery to the depot on November 26. Thank you, in advance, for helping to bring Christmas a little closer to someone in need.

Services of Remembrance

Norma and Richard would like to invite anyone who has been bereaved (whether recently or some time ago) to the Benefice All Souls Service on Sunday 4 November at 5pm in St Andrew's, Shrivenham. Please talk to one of us if you would like to know more.

Our churches will mark Remembrance Sunday on 11 th; please see list on page 4. Please do join us, **also** listen out for the **special ringing of bells** in our villages on Remembrance Day.

Commemorative Kneelers This time last year we wrote about our plans to produce an altar kneeler for the Craven Chapel in St Mary's Church, which would include names of all the men from Ashbury who served in the Great War, those who lost their lives and those who survived and returned home. Well, we've done it and the three kneelers will be on display in Ashbury village hall on 10 and 11 November. Sincere thanks to everyone who has been part of this – from those who found a new hobby to those who hated it but did it anyway! Every stitch is precious and you are all stars.

Peace and cake: An old-fashioned afternoon tea to mark the end of the Great War with readings, displays music and memories at **4.30pm on Saturday 10 November** in the village hall. Do come along and share your own family stories.

Advance notice of Christmas events and services in Ashbury:

15 December	Wessex Male Choir (concert in the village hall)
20 December	2.30pm Carols in the village hall
21 December	6pm Stations of the nativity
22 December	5pm Carol service in church
Christmas Eve	4pm Crib service
Christmas Day	10.30am Family service followed by Communion

and elsewhere:

1 December: Fernham Christmas Bazaar

16 December: Carol services– 4pm Fernham, 6pm Compton B. and Longcot

Christmas midnight: 11.30pm in both Compton Beauchamp and Longcot

Christmas Day: Holy Communion – 9am Fernham

Breakfast Groups, open to all

Breakfast Bible Study: this monthly discussion group will meet again at 8am on Saturday 3 November (venue to be confirmed). Again, all are welcome to chat about anything and everything over a cup of coffee and a simple breakfast. Just call Norma on 710055 to confirm.

Men's Breakfast: in St Mary's House on Saturday 24 November (due to the bazaar). Everyone is welcome, the conversation is great and the English breakfast is free – we just ask for a donation if you can. Please call Norma (710055) if you'd like to come

With All Souls, Remembrance Sunday and preparations for Christmas (which can sometimes be bitter-sweet) this prayer seemed appropriate:

Go softly on your way, beloved.

Let love call you home with the ebb tide.

May the moon light your way across the waters
and the breeze blow you swiftly.
Go softly home and know that our love goes with you.

St Mary's Ashbury Christmas choir

It would be lovely to have a choir for Christmas again this year; for those who are interested, there will also be an opportunity to sing with the benefice choir at the Watchfield Advent service and the Shrivenham carol service, too. Sight reading is NOT required - just come and sing. For further information - please contact James Reade or Richard Fergusson

Country Matters

After such a pleasant autumn it's rather frightening to feel November is upon us. This past season of harvest festivals and mellow fruitfulness maybe but a memory. Every village used to support an autumn flower /produce show. Bishopstone still does. In the farming world our most local show is the two day Berkshire County run by the Newbury Agricultural Society. Young Oliver Spence showed and won prizes with his Dexter heifer matching pair this year. Further afield there are the Three Counties at Malvern, Thame and Moreton in the Marsh shows. In the Great Park at Windsor a society show there survives successfully catering for just its farming members with the public unusually excluded and I had an interesting day there this summer judging the cereal crops. A brilliant lunch was a great draw with Adam Henson speaking.

Ploughing match societies are still very successful. This year's Fairford, Faringdon, Filkins and Burford show held at Clanfield drew a terrific crowd. A new site is volunteered each year with some of the proceeds going back to the host farmer who may have to re-level his fields! In Wiltshire Avebury district hold a similar event. Inadequate access has prevented me from offering our fields as a site. The nearest events to us here have been held at Kingston Lisle in 2006, Shellingford in 2007 and Hatford in 2012.

All these shows are real family events staging a shop window of modern and bygone farming practices. There are competitions for all age groups with classes for cooking, produce, art, vegetables and flowers, and harvested crops producing a timeless attraction. Many return each year to plough the straightest furrow and Shires predominate in the horse section, though this year there was a pair of magnificent Dutch Draughts, steel/grey and sturdy. Socially these shows play a valuable, interactive role in the fabric of country life, fostering old skills and getting the rural community together, some of whom find themselves leading a rather solitary life. At some expense The Wurzels came to play on this 70th anniversary year for the evening party at Clanfield.

Richard Green

Contacts

Ashbury Parish Council

Chairman Kate Watkins

01793 710440 chairman@ashbury.org.uk

Clerk to the council -TBA -meanwhile: 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 **December** 2018. Submit your entries for December by **16th**

November 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.