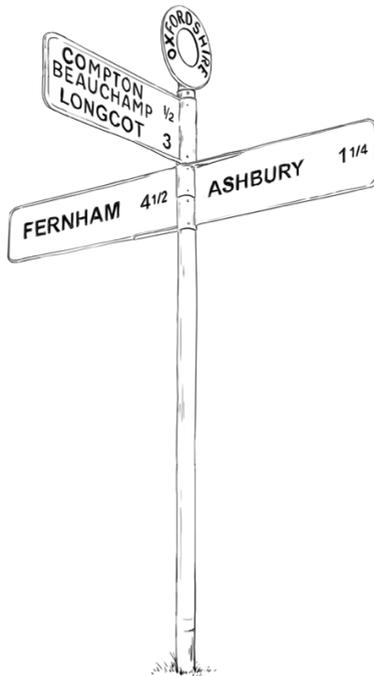


ASHBURY COMPTON LONGCOT FERNHAM NEWS

OCTOBER 2019



Major Events this month

Longcot: Torriano Ensemble Autumn Concert 12th

Ashbury Community Club 31st -Ashbury Night Sky

Thought for the month

As most of you will know, Norma and I have now moved into the Vicarage in Shrivvenham.

The first thing you realise when you move house is that you have given up control. Neither house is your home, your worldly possessions no longer belong to you. You are in the hands of the movers. You get some insight into the way refugees must feel. Now you might say that that should not seem like anything new. I believe our steps, Norma's and mine, have been directed by a higher power since Norma first came to Shrivvenham six years ago on placement. But if you are going to relinquish control of your life, I urge you, do so to the Holy Spirit, not to half a dozen twenty-somethings who just want to get the job done.

All those worldly possessions disappear into the vans, to re-emerge in apparently random order. Now, modern astrophysicists believe that our universe began in much the same way. All matter condensed into a single point, a 'singularity', before it burst back out and grew and evolved into the wonders of the universe we see around us today. I believe too that, for reasons beyond our understanding, that is how God chose to effect creation. Order out of chaos remains a goal for us as we unpack the boxes, as it does for humanity as we try to manage the environment.

And then there's communication; you will also probably be aware that, just as when we moved into Ashbury, we were without telephone or internet access for nearly two weeks. I'll spare you the details, but it is again a reminder of how important it is to keep in touch. Thank God, and I do not say that in vain, you don't need the services of BT to sustain and be sustained by an active prayer life.

And finally, the acts of kindness: from a simple kind word, to a bouquet of flowers, a bottle of wine (or scotch, or gin, how well you know us), to a full cooked meal, to several hours with a paintbrush. Quite simply, we couldn't have made it without you. And I suspect that applies equally to the last five years, and the months and years to come. Thank you; God bless you.

Richard

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

Ashbury News

VILLAGE HALL

We are pleased to say the new insulated floor is now completed, thanks to the grant funding from Awards for All, Vale of White Horse District Council and Ashbury Parish Council.

We have two events for your diary: on 14th December the Faringdon Singers will be performing their Christmas Concert and on 25th January we are holding a Burns Night. More details in the next Newsletter.

ASHBURY COMMUNITY CLUB

Thursday 31st October at 2.30pm in Ashbury Village Hall

Our local Astronomer, Adrian West will be giving a talk on "Ashbury Night Sky"

Everyone welcome to join us for an interesting afternoon with tea & biscuits, raffle and time to chat.

Visitors £2. More info. from Jackie on 710358

Advance notice: St Mary's Christmas Fete Saturday 30th November: watch this space!

Longcot News

Saturday 12th October 2019 at 6.00pm

Autumn Concert given by

The Torriano Ensemble

Peter Lewis – flute Victoria Medcalf – clarinet

Julie Monument and Philippa Ballard – violin Audrey Henning – viola

Sarah Hedley- Miller – cello with Bethan Gillard - harp

A rare opportunity to hear Ravel's beautiful Introduction and Allegro for flute, clarinet, harp and string quartet. Also in the programme are Mozart's brilliant D major flute quartet, two quintessentially English works for clarinet and string quartet by Howells and Finzi and the well-known cello solo, The Swan from Saint-Saens' Carnival of the Animals.

Admission Free. **Donations in aid of the Longcot Village Trust.** Bar open before the concert and at the interval.

Church Matters

SUNDAY SERVICES

DATE	ASHBURY	LONGCOT	FERNHAM	COMPTON BEAUCHAMP
Sunday 6th October Trinity 16	11am Morning Worship	3pm-Chapel Joint Service (see below)	No service	9am Harvest Festival Holy Communion [BCP]
Sunday 13th October Trinity 17	11am Holy Communion	9:30am Holy Communion	No service	No service
Sunday 20th October Trinity 18	11am Café Church (see below)	6pm Evensong	No service	9am Matins [BCP]
27th October Trinity 19 Bible Sunday	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Family Communion	No service	No service

Ashbury's Café Church on Sunday 20th October. We will have Steve Lloyd who is the Area coordinator for Wiltshire for Operation Christmas Child speaking about this international charity that provides children across the world with a filled shoe box of goodies, everything from a toothbrush to some toys and pens and crayons.

The children that receive a shoe box often are very poor; living in an orphanage or just not looked after. Operation Christmas Child has the ability to provide much needed items and show love to many thousands of children.

In addition-Midweek services/ gatherings

Ashbury- St. Mary's

Thursday 3rd October- 8am- said Morning Prayer

Thursday 10th October- 11am- short said service of Holy Communion in the Celtic tradition

Thursday 17th October- 8am- said Morning Prayer

Thursday 24th October- 8am- said Morning Prayer

Prayer cycle- for September- 6th Pound Piece, 13th Station Road, 20th The Malthouses, 27th Walnut Trees Hill

Ashbury- Evangelical Free Church

Wednesday 2nd & 16th October- 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 12th October- 11.30am Family service

Longcot churches working together – Chapel news

Sunday 6th October- 3pm- This month's service will take the form of our Harvest Thanksgiving and will be led by Mrs Pam Mullin – she's actually scheduled to take this one!

Everyone is welcome and to the Harvest Tea which will be served afterwards.

Friday 25th October- 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 welcome. As this is the day of the Great Macmillan Coffee Morning, this month's donations will go to Macmillan Cancer Care.



Benefice Notices

Sharing a life can change a life

The Shared Lives scheme matches people who need additional support to be independent, with carers and their families. Sharing a family's life means that people who need support can choose to become part of an ordinary household, instead of staying in residential care or being looked after by a team of support workers.

Could you give someone the chance to learn and grow, develop new skills and gain the confidence to become as independent as possible in a family environment? Become a Shared Lives Carer in a home based, paid role.

oxfordshire.gov.uk/sharedlives

[Adult Services | People Directorate Oxfordshire County Council]

ADVANCE NOTICE FOR CONTRIBUTORS: There will be a **joint issue** of the Newsletter for December 2019/ January 2020 and entries for inclusion must be received by **25th November**. The November issue will be as usual.

Country Matters

For us harvest was done and dusted on August 31st Not too late and with good wheat yields and less diesel used to dry the crops than usual. Unfortunately this rosy report is tempered by lower prices. Finishing harvest these days signals further frantic activity as the straw bales are all cleared; there is urgency to plant next year's oil seed rape and to establish a green cover crop on the bare stubbles to improve soil health in the following spring crop. Half our arable has been so planted and now needs a good rain to germinate and grow. Winter wheat planting will follow in October after trying to get a chit of the dreaded blackgrass.

Stella Tidmarsh writes occasionally in the Ashbury newsletter and last month posed the question on whether we sufficiently consider the wild creatures that share our lives. She has enjoyed frogs and dragon flies coming to her new ornamental pond. She reminds us that good or bad, God has a plan for every aspect of nature in his grand design.

A case in point as an influence for good are our insects and pollinators even wasps and of course bees, both honey and bumble. A recent book painted a futuristic picture of how society had retreated by 2050 back to the middle ages as it grappled with a replacement “human pollination policy” in the absence of insects all killed off by an irresponsible generation. Frightening stuff!

Many farmers now plant strips of the blue phacelia flower to encourage bees! We have a wasp nest in our thatch but they are not doing us harm so I have left them. Our garden features a lot of box hedging probably at least a century old and I have seen the effects of the box blight moth caterpillars destroying box in France. It is reported that global warming has seen this problem coming here to southern England. Ham House near Richmond, London hopes that jackdaws are getting a taste for these caterpillars to limit their spread.

Similarly the oak processionary moth is prevalent in France and has now been recorded at Kew, London. The hairs on these caterpillars can cause injury to children and pets. Our dog lost a good centimetre off its tongue as it rotted after it touched one over in France.

As I suggested last month too many red kites, crows and buzzards, too many foxes, badgers, fallow deer and rabbits are unsustainable but they in moderation are all part of the countryside’s rich pattern.

Squirrels you would think are harmless. But they damage forestry and if they get into your roof can do untold damage. This was the case at St Swithun’s, Hinton Parva recently as there was found to be no lighting for a wedding service, the cable chewed by a squirrel.

Hedgehogs can do good in a garden eating slugs and snails. Reluctantly I have had to move a pair to a better home from my garden because my spaniel would not leave them alone, searching them out in the dark before bedtime.

The list goes on. Limiting plastic waste, reducing emissions, fighting the rise in global warming, caring for our environment, farming and us all living responsibly with a wider conscience are all now part of our everyday agenda.

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 rev.n.fergusson@btinternet.com

(not Monday)

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 **November** 2019. Submit your entries for November by **18th**

October 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.