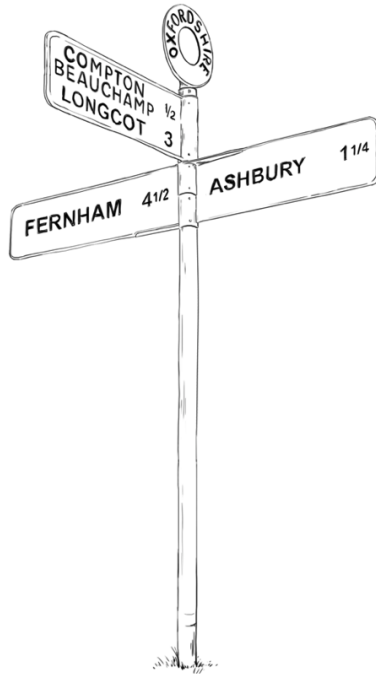


ASHBURY COMPTON LONGCOT FERNHAM NEWS

OCTOBER 2020



“Normal service” not yet resumed. See inside. In addition to the version available at www.ashbury.org.uk, a few individual copies will be left in Ashbury Village Shop, St Mary’s and the bus shelter (in a cardboard box) for anyone “offline” to collect. .

Thought for the month

I'm not usually stuck for words, but when it comes to writing on 12 September something for an October magazine – what can I possibly say? Unfortunately, a year on from moving into the vicarage, we still haven't unearthed the crystal ball

It is undoubtedly an uncertain and scary time with the R number rising and regulations being tightened. So far our communities have been relatively untouched by covid, though I know that many have lost family and friends who lived in other areas. Our hearts go out to you. If you have been unable to say goodbye in the way you would have wished, keep an eye out for details of the arrangements for All Souls on 1 November.

However, on the positive side:

Today is the annual Ride & Stride event. The weather has been kind and with the exception of St John's (which remains closed to allow the pre-school exclusive access) all our churches have not just been open but positively welcoming – and people have come out to take part. Thank you to everyone who has been involved. Even the weather has been on our side!

Our schools have gone back and all seems to have gone well so far. The staff have been amazing but please do continue to keep them in your prayers.

Harvest Festival is being celebrated in our churches during September and October. The Food Bank and the Women's refuge need our support. If you can make a donation of tinned or dried goods, please contact me or your churchwarden. The schools are making plans to record and share their thoughts, which will be wonderful be we will miss welcoming them to church as usual.

Alpha begins on line on 5th October (who'd have thought we'd be so grateful for zoom?)

The annual meetings of our Parochial Church Councils will all have taken place by the end of October. There are just not enough words to thank everybody adequately for all they have done during the pandemic. And thank you, too, to everyone who has continued to support us financially.

Last but not least, we will have a new Associate Vicar – Paul Richardson – who will be licensed at St Mary’s Ashbury on 3 November. Paul and his wife Katriona will be moving into St Mary’s House during October. We can’t give them the usual welcome and chance to meet everyone, but please do say hello.

And looking forward, despite what you may have read in the papers, Christmas is still happening at the end of December. It may not be in quite the form it usually takes, but we will welcome the Christ child with joy into our hearts and homes.

Stay well and safe and I’ll look forward to seeing you soon.

Norma

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

Ashbury News

FUTURE DELIVERIES OF ASHBURY NEWSLETTER

Last month’s newsletter mentioned that we were hoping to revert to hard copy deliveries of the newsletter to every house in the parish. However, with the ongoing Covid problems we feel that we should continue with the electronic/email version and a few printed copies available in the bus shelter. However, we appreciate that this is not reaching everyone and would ask you to let us know of anyone who is not receiving a copy but would like either a hard copy or let us have an email address for anyone who would like to be added to the Ashbury email circulation. **Please contact Judy Clark: 710305 or judithannclarke@sky.com**

Ashbury Sir William Cash Trust Fund-reminder

The annual meeting of the Trustees was set for 13th November and while this may change slightly I would like to remind those organisations or individuals who are thinking of applying for a grant to make their application in good time; ideally by the end of October.

For those of you who may never have heard of the Fund, briefly, it was set up following a bequest from a former resident of the Old Vicarage *“for the general purposes of and*

upon the principles and in the furtherance of the religious and other charitable works of the Church of England in the said parish of Ashbury.”

The original bequest dates from the late sixties; the Trust in its current form from 1982. Over the years it has supported the church, the school and various clubs, organisations and individuals, within its remit.

Longcot News

LONGCOT VILLAGE TRUST

Longcot Clarinet concert on 6 September.

Thank you to everyone who attended the two Longcot Village Trust (LVT) clarinet concerts on Longcot's Village Green on 6 September. The weather was wonderful and, despite the complications of COVID-19 regulations, social distancing and the like, the combination of relaxed atmosphere and wonderful music created two unforgettable events. The LVT trustees would like to thank Vicky Medcalf and the Longcot Clarinet Collective for their wonderful music, trustees Lucy Self, Chris Gotch and Dennis Blease who set up and managed the event on the day and all of you who attended and made such generous donations after the concerts.

It was a wonderful event which raised an amazing £468 for LVT funds which brings total funds available for LVT's St Mary's Community Hub project up to £135,000 out of the £187,000 (72%) needed to complete the project.

LVT Annual General meeting on 31 October 2020.

The postponed LVT Annual General Meeting (AGM) for 2019 will take place on 31 October 2020 at 11.00am and will be followed immediately by the Autumn 2020 Meeting of the trustees. All adults living in the parish of Longcot may attend one or both meetings and may vote on any Proposition which is presented to the meeting. We hope to hold the meetings in St Mary's Church, Longcot but, if ruled out by COVID-19 regulations, they will have to be virtual meetings using Zoom. Everyone wishing to take part in the AGM should therefore register their name and email address with:

Keith Reid, Secretary of LVT **keith.e.reid@btinternet.com**

by Saturday 24 October. If a real meeting is permitted, numbers will be limited to the first 22 applications; face coverings must be worn and social distancing maintained.

The Secretary will issue the agenda and documents by email closer to the time. For a Zoom meeting, he will email the Zoom joining link, ID and Password to those who have registered, between 24 and 28 October 2020. “

Church Matters

October services in Ashbury, Compton and Longcot will be as follows:

Sunday 4 October	9am	Harvest Festival	Ashbury
	10am	Holy Communion (BCP Beauchamp)	Compton
Thursday 8 October	11am	Holy Communion	Ashbury
Sunday 11 October	10am	Holy Communion	Longcot
Sunday 18 October (then online)	5.30pm	Evensong	Ashbury
Sunday 25 October Beauchamp	9am	Matins	Compton
	10am	Holy Communion	Ashbury

For the time being, there will be no services at Fernham. Please check the website (www.shrivenhamandasbury.co.uk) or Facebook page for further details or contact:

Rev'd Norma Fergusson (Vicar)	01793 784338
Maggie Simons, Ashbury churchwarden	01793 710801
Dennis Blease, Longcot churchwarden	01793 780708
Joanna Lambert, Compton churchwarden	07990 898175

Online services will continue to be streamed as follows:

Sundays	11am	Holy Communion
Tuesdays & Thursdays	9am	Morning Prayer
3 rd Sundays	5.30pm	Evensong
1 st Wednesday	2pm	Holy Communion

Access to these services can be found by going onto Shrivenham & Ashbury Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/shrivenhamandashbury> (you do not need to be a Facebook member to go onto this page).

Ashbury Prayer cycle for October- 4th Malthouse Close; 11th Odstone Farm & Cottages; 18th Pound Piece; 25th Station Road.

LONGCOT CHURCHES WORKING TOGETHER – CHAPEL NEWS

It was great to see so many people out 'Riding and Striding' on September 12th – and the weather was glorious for the occasion. Despite the fact that Longcot Chapel has to remain closed we did have the porch open with the necessary form to sign on a table and a jug of water for people to replenish their water bottles if needed. Quite a few people had obviously visited the chapel and we were able to offer some minimal hospitality. Sadly though, the chapel won't be open for some weeks yet and until then be assured that the people of Longcot continue to be held in prayer as are those in the surrounding villages.

GARDENER NEEDED – Sadly, David, who has looked after the chapel garden, is moving on to pastures new so now we need a replacement. If there is anyone in the village who would be willing to help please give **Stella** a ring on **01793 782584** and she will be able to tell them what's involved (not a lot!). We wish David well in his new job and thank him for his hard work over the last couple of years.

Ambassadors Bible Church (at AEFC) While the current situation is so fluid please look at our website www.ambiblechurch.co.uk

Country Matters

Harvest finished here cutting the spring beans on September 14th in lovely weather. In the past month we have had 5" (125 mm) of rain and storm Francis blowing a gale to test us and blow out some oats onto the floor. August seems to be a wet month these days. There was some frustration and losses and sprouted grain so it's good to finish.

On the chalk and in the Vale it's been a fair harvest. Friends on the more drought prone Cotswold soils have had a bad harvest suffering from the dry spring. Our wheats, cut before the rain, have tested good for bread making premiums. Our barley is in two heaps; some looks good enough to meet the malting specifications on germination and low nitrogen but later cut fields are separate because they had started to sprout, spoiling the germination.

We grew two kind of oats and both lost their bright colour after the rain. However the milling oats have tested good. These have a porridge and biscuit market. We also

grew naked oats (without a husk) and these are wanted for bird seed and for breakfast muesli. Our grain shed can clean these crops to help obtain the premiums and we feed the cleanings to our beef cattle after it's been ground up by a visiting contractor either now out in the fields, or on top of the silage during the winter.

New above-ground troughs in the fields stop cattle muddying the feed at ground level and also deter bovine TB from badger infection because they cannot climb into them. The spring bean harvest was a new crop for us. It comes to harvest later and went through the combine as the weather improved with some good yields.

This week we have two local farm machinery sales. They are able to go ahead as necessary business outside despite the new Covid -19 rules of six. The late Bill Ball's at Lower Ildstone farm and the late Marcella Seymour's at her farm situated under White Horse Hill. Both farms are on the market for the first time for many years. The Balls have been at Ildstone longer than any of the other farming families in Ildstone and Ashbury but Robbie Selbourn's occupancy following his grandfather Bob Wilson at Prebendal farm, Bishopstone, may predate the Balls.

These farm machinery sales can be a mix of social and business interest. After many years all the old sheds and barns are cleared out with items of yesteryear appearing out in the field laid down and numbered in rows ready for the auctioneer. Tractors, vehicles and more modern machinery join the antique items, but it has to be said that on small farms much of the offering will be of more interest to hobby and lifestyle farming families rather than the current professionals. Shiny new machinery such as big tractors and combines costing £250,000+ make these investments increasingly prohibitive except on really large farms.

Richard Green

Malt House Farm, Ashbury, Berks.
Sale of
LIVE and DEAD FARMING STOCK
On Thursday, Oct. 7th, 1920, at 1.30 o'clock,
belonging to Mr W. Partridge, including
4 Cart Horses, 4 Stirk Heifers, Wagons and
Carts, Cultivating Implements, Hay making and
-Harvesting Machinery, and other effects, by
A. F. HOBBS & CHAMBERS.
Auctioneers, Faringdon, from whom catalogues
may be obtained at an early date.

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 – TBA See “Thought for the month”

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 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: David Johnston david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk
0207 219 3000

Newsletter entries for November 2020. Submit your entries for November by **23rd**

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.