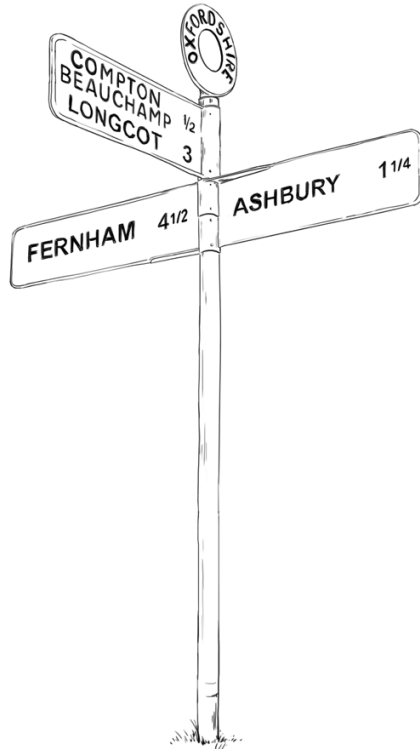


**ASHBURY  
COMPTON LONGCOT FERNHAM  
NEWS  
September 2018**



**Major Events this month**

8<sup>th</sup> Benefice Ride and Stride  
15<sup>th</sup> Ashbury Textile map fundraising Coffee morning  
23<sup>rd</sup> Ashbury Farmers' Market

## Thought for the month

I'm reading a book by an ancestor of mine, it's all about his time as a missionary in Namaqualand (part of Southern Africa) in the mid nineteenth century and I'm finding it absolutely fascinating.

I love history anyway but reading words written by a member of the family all those years ago adds another dimension. Perhaps the people featured in the TV series 'Who do you think you are?' have the same sort of experience.

'I never knew history could be so interesting', was a comment made by one of the older visitors to Ashdown House. What a shame that person had to wait until well into adulthood to make that discovery.

History is not just boring lists of dates, monarchs and battles. Social history is all about people and even political and economic history have their fascination, helping us to understand why certain laws were passed or taxes levied and how the behaviour, fashions and beliefs of ordinary folk were affected. The popularity of historical dramas on TV and the numbers of visitors to NT houses and English Heritage sites bear witness to the fact that people enjoy discovering how our forebears lived. Without knowing what went on in the past it would be hard to understand the present!

Jesus read history books. The Old Testament is made up of a number of books containing the history of the Jews and as a rabbi (religious teacher) he had to study all of them and went on to use quotations from those books to great effect during his three years' ministry.

For me, a quotation from Samuel Coleridge Taylor sums up how history can be misunderstood:

'If men would learn from history, what lessons it might teach us! But passion and party blind our eyes and the light which experience gives us is a lantern on the stern, which shines only on the waves'.

History isn't just about looking back. Hopefully, there are lessons to be learnt by us all – leaders and ordinary citizens across the world. If we use it correctly and allow ourselves to value what it teaches us it can help us make sense of some of some of the seemingly unfathomable and insoluble problems in today's world. Let's pray that God will open our eyes and hearts to better understand what the past has to offer for the future.

**Stella Tidmarsh**

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

## Ashbury News

**Ashbury Community Club.** Thursday 27th September, 2.30pm

"The Wilts & Berks Canal "

Parts of the route of this canal can be found near Shrivenham and towards Wantage. Brian Stovold from the Canal Trust will be talking about the various activities to restore the canal. Do join us at the Village Hall. Visitors welcome. £2 (includes refreshments) Details from Jackie Baker 710358.

**Ashbury Walking Group.** Sunday 16th September. 2pm

Meet us by the bus stop near the Rose and Crown for a free guided walk along local footpaths.

The walks are between 4 and 5 miles and take about 2 hours. Dogs Welcome.

Please wear stout footwear as some of the paths can be rough. Further info. from Sue Reade 710208 (We walk on the 3rd Sunday of each month, ie 21st October etc.)

**Thanks:** A big "Thank you" to **Edgar Tombs** for his voluntary work of clearing the path through Rookless and around the entrance by the millpond. The residents are very grateful for his hard work.

**Ashbury Open Space** Do you think we should improve the village Open Space and make better use of it? Liz Derrington is getting together a group of people to work with the Parish Council looking at ways to level the grass area and to make the Open Space as a whole more attractive and useful. This is an exciting project that will benefit the whole village. If you would like to be involved please contact Liz (telephone 01793 710813 or email [elizabethderrington45@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethderrington45@gmail.com)).

**Ashbury Textile map update**, and COFFEE MORNING/BRING AND BUY SALE - Saturday 15 September 11 am, Village Hall. After expert consultation and treatment the map is now reinstated in the hall. The total cost of this work is £330. The Fete Committee kindly made a donation of £100 towards the cost, and a further £97.20 was raised at the Bric a Brac Stall at the Fete. We hope to raise the remaining sum of £132.80 at the Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy Sale being held on 15<sup>th</sup> September. We hope you will be able to join us.

**ST MARY'S CHURCH, GROUP CLEANING** - Friday 12 October

Please join us between 10 am and 12 noon for an annual tidy and clean inside St Mary's Church. The more people who come along to help the more we can get done - even if you can only spare a little time you will be welcome. Coffee and biscuits will be provided.

**Ashbury Market** Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 10.30-1.00pm in the Village Hall. All your favourite stalls will be there, plus two new ones. Do come and see!

**Ride & Stride is on 8 September** this year, and I will be manning/offering refreshment at the church (helpers welcome) as well as attempting to encourage participation.

**Gail Loose**

**Newsletter distributor needed- Can you help?** We need a volunteer to distribute the monthly newsletters once a year in the Ashbury/Kingston Winslow/Idstone area. It simply involves delivering the newsletters to the 10 volunteers who post them through the letter boxes in the various streets in our area the same month every year. If you can help, please call Judy Clarke on 01793 710305 or email [judithannclarke@sky.com](mailto:judithannclarke@sky.com). Thank you.

### **Church Matters**

**Ashbury:** Services are at 11am on Sundays at St Mary's except 9<sup>th</sup>, which will be at AEFC. **Harvest** 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Compton:** 9am on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Longcot:** 9.30am on 9<sup>th</sup>, and 23<sup>rd</sup> (**Harvest**), 6pm on 16<sup>th</sup>. Joint service on 2<sup>nd</sup> at 3pm. Benefice Holy Communion 30<sup>th</sup>, 10.30am.

**Fernham:** 9.00am on 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, 6.00pm on 23<sup>rd</sup> (**Harvest**)

Benefice service at Longcot on 30<sup>th</sup> September at 10.30am.

The Ashbury prayer cycle for September will be: 2<sup>nd</sup> Idstone, 9<sup>th</sup> Kingstone Winslow, 16<sup>th</sup> Malthouse Close, 23<sup>rd</sup> Odstone Farm and Cottages, 30<sup>th</sup>, Pound Piece.

### **Ashbury Evangelical Free Church**

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> at **11.00** a.m. Communion service.

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> at 2.15pm. tea & chat.

Everyone is welcome!!

### **Longcot Churches working together**

**Sun. 2nd** 3pm - As you may know, the services in the chapel are for people of all denominations or none and are alternately led by Methodist and Anglican preachers. This month it's the turn of the Anglicans and so we look forward to welcoming Revd. Norma Fergusson. Everyone is welcome to join us and to stay for refreshments afterwards.

**Fri. 28th** 3- 4.30pm T Time Fellowship. Why not come and join us in the Chapel for a chat over afternoon tea? We're a friendly bunch and share lots of laughs. There is no charge but donations to our chosen charity are always welcome.

## Around the Benefice

### Breakfast Groups, open to all

*Men's breakfast:* will restart in Ashbury Village Hall on Saturday 6 October. If you haven't been along before, please do join us. 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 would like to come.

*Breakfast Bible Study:* this monthly discussion group will meet again at 8am on Saturday 29 September. 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.

**Harvest Festival Celebrations, 23 September** all welcome; see above page 4. Except St Swithun's, Compton Beauchamp, Harvest at 09.00 on 7 October.

Richard Hancock will be licensed to his new role and to the parish of Sixpenny Handley in a service on Monday 24 September at 7.30. We hope to be able to arrange a coach; please contact Norma (710055) for further details.

### Take part or sponsor Ride and Stride      Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust

**Saturday 8th September.** For 54 years Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust has given in grants, several million pounds to churches and chapels of all Christian denominations in Oxfordshire to help maintain them and make the buildings more useful to the local community - for example by the installation of kitchens, loos, extra rooms and more.

Much of this has been as the result of funds raised by Ride + Stride.

Cycle, walk or find another way to visit Oxon churches while raising funds! For full details visit [ohct.org.uk/ride-stride](http://ohct.org.uk/ride-stride)

**Café Church in Ashbury Village Shop: 16<sup>th</sup> September 11am.**

**No Service at St Mary's that Sunday**



## Shrivenham Bereavement Support Group.

HOPE

SHRIVENHAM BEREAVEMENT  
SUPPORT GROUP

Have you experienced a bereavement? Do you want somewhere you can speak freely and find support and new ideas to help you in your grief?

We will help you understand and cope with the effects of this grief, and look at ways to promote healing of the wounds that you are feeling within a small, safe, supportive group of people. This is an inclusive group for anyone, with or without a faith.

PLACE: St Andrew's Church Vestry  
TIME: 10.45 - 12.30, Tuesday Sept 25th for 6 weeks

CONTACT: Norma: 01793710055  
rev.n.fergusson@btinternet.com  
or Rose-Anne: 01793784017  
rosesnne@outlook.com

**Shrivenham Bereavement Support Group.** If you have suffered a bereavement and want somewhere you can speak freely and find support and new ideas to help you in your grief, this is an inclusive, safe, supportive group for anyone, with or without a faith.

St Andrew's Church Vestry 10.45-12.30 Tuesday Sept 25<sup>th</sup> for 6 weeks. Contact Norma 017937 10055 [rev.n.fergusson@btinternet.com](mailto:rev.n.fergusson@btinternet.com) or Rose-Anne 01793 784017 [roseanne@outlook.com](mailto:roseanne@outlook.com)

## Country Matters

We have had a summer to remember at last. As you know there was hardly a drop of rain for 58 days until late July. We then measured 14ml which soon disappeared and hot weather continued afterwards for another fortnight. Harvesting started 10 days early and although here on the downs we still have (Aug 12th ) several days to do, it's been the easiest so far for many years. On the dry Breckland in Suffolk one large estate finished harvest on July 27th. I cannot remember the wheat straw behind the combine being so bright yellow. In fact it was so hot that we had to stop combining oil seed rape in the afternoons because the crop would be unsaleable at under 7% moisture. You may recall that I was concerned in the spring that this year our planting was delayed. Our yields so far are much better than we feared, a little under average but chalk soils survive better in a drought; nationally yields are 20% down. Quality is good and we have milling wheat and malting barley that will attract premiums.

Now some history! It's 23 years back to 1995 when we had such an easy harvest and 42 years back to 1976, which was a scorcher following a dry year in 1975. So much so that the church estate water supply from springs behind Bishopstone pond proved inadequate to keep two dairy herds supplied at Eastbrook farm and they were temporarily connected to the mains, whilst at Ildstone we were able to continue on the private estate supply from the upper reservoir. We finished harvest that year on August 3rd. Dry years are not a new phenomenon. 1933 was dry and I have read of Bishopstone pond being dredged in the thirties; probably 1933. 1921 and 1911 were also very dry years. Temperatures reached 100F at Greenwich in 1911.

I have a picture taken by my father aged 16 in 1921 at Sands farm, Shellingford of men and horses clearing mud from the dried up pond there which still retained a little water even in 1976. Nevertheless there is now evidence of global warming contributing to more extreme weather patterns in future years.

With no grass cattle are hungry so feed has to be carried to them and in one place they are so boisterous we are sending two to feed, one to protect the other. It is reported that butterfly numbers will crash because caterpillars cannot get moisture from dried up nettles etc. Elm suckers are dying and we have cracks opening up in our home. Up north grouse numbers are reported down because of the "beast from the east" and owing to dry conditions reducing insects and chick survival. Down here, despite some potential losses from partridge chicks falling down cracks there is hope that there are more wild coveys this year and the early harvest sees an early start to hunting, with the first autumn hunting meet of the Old Berks advertised for Aug 9th. Further rain will be needed or there will be many hounds with sore pads.

**Richard Green**

## Contacts

### **Ashbury Parish Council**

Chairman Kate Watkins

01793 710440 [kate\\_l\\_watkins@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:kate_l_watkins@hotmail.co.uk)

Clerk to the council -TBA

**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](mailto:rev.n.fergusson@btinternet.com)

(not Mondays or Fridays)

Church warden: Maggie Simons 01793 710801

Secretary: Roger Simons 01793 710801 [rogersimons1@outlook.com](mailto:rogersimons1@outlook.com)

Vicar interregnum (Shrivenham)

### **Ashbury Village Hall**

Maggie Simons 0193 710801 [maggiemsimons@outlook.com](mailto:maggiemsimons@outlook.com)

Secretary Margaret Smith 01793 710800 [mbsmith5@hotmail.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:elaine.ware@whitehorsedc.gov.uk) and Simon Howell 01793 784491

[simon.howell@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:simon.howell@whitehorsedc.gov.uk)

**County Councillor:** Yvonne Constance: 01235 751475/07976934884

[yvonne.constance@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto: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](mailto:ed.vaizey.mp@parliament.uk).

Newsletter entries for **October** 2018. Submit your entries for October by **17<sup>th</sup> September** to: M. Turner Claremont, Ashbury SN6 8LN. [marionlturner@me.com](mailto:marionlturner@me.com) 01793 710302

For more of "what's on" and local information see the Ashbury Village Website [www.ashbury.org.uk](http://www.ashbury.org.uk) and the community page on Facebook.