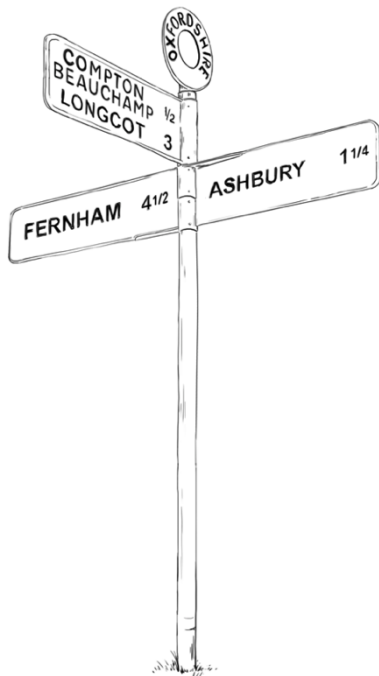


**ASHBURY  
COMPTON LONGCOT FERNHAM  
NEWS  
APRIL 2024**



**13<sup>th</sup> April Churchyard spring clean**

**25th Community Club**

**Next month: Beat the Bounds and Longcot Clarinet  
Collective Spring concert**

## THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

On November 17<sup>th</sup> 1940, Provost Howard stood in the bombed and smouldering ruins of the once beautiful Coventry Cathedral and led the congregation of traumatised citizens in the first service following the destruction of the city. He placed a cross of charred timbers on the altar, and forged a cross of medieval nails from the roof timbers and held it up to the congregation. His first words were repeated throughout the short service.

“Father, Forgive”. In the midst of so much death and destruction, he used words that were to inspire reconciliation between the citizens of Coventry, Dresden, Berlin, Hamburg and Hiroshima. The Cross of Nails and those powerful words helped to shape the peace of Europe and the world in the years after 1945. We know that words can be a force for evil as well as a force for good, and as a former teacher I know that social media can be a mixed blessing.

I also remember the late Frank Parkinson giving one of his memorable sermons in Longcot church. Ever the one for memorable imagery, he said, “remember the contents of a tube of toothpaste. Once squeezed out, impossible to get back in again. So choose your words with care.”

He cautioned us to remember that what we say, and the way in which we say it, can have a profound effect on all those with whom we interact. He believed that our words should be used as a balm to the distressed in a troubled world, and I know that his wise counsel helped very many people. “Comfort the afflicted, and if necessary, afflict the comfortable!”

My own father’s mantra to our family was, “Always try to be slow to chide and swift to bless.” I know this can sometimes be a challenge, but worth striving to achieve nevertheless.

It is said that Provost Howard concluded his service on that memorable November day with the following.

“May the power of the words of Christ always guide us in our daily lives and in our pursuit of peace and a better world.”

Amen to that.

**Tom Arnold**

## Ashbury

### Beat the Bounds 2024

This year the annual medieval tradition to walk the parish boundaries will be on **Monday May 6th, meeting at 8.30am** in front of the pub. Following an Ashbury tradition that is at least 500 years old, the parish boundary walk was historically used to confirm the boundaries of the parish and ensure that neighbouring parishes hadn't encroached any of our land. Everyone is welcome on this walk, including children and dogs, and you can come for as much of the walk as you like. The history of the walk and more information on the route can be found at <http://www.ashbury.org.uk/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. And be part of history!



## **Ashbury Community Club**

Thursday 25th April

Lunch at Swindon College Training Restaurant

(North Star campus SN2 1DY)

The 3-course lunch will be prepared and served by the Catering students and costs just £10 plus £2 for tea/coffee. Seating from 12 for 12.30pm

Booking is essential but menu choices and payments are made on the day. Car sharing will be arranged

You can sign up at the meeting on 28th March or by contacting Sue Reade, tel 710208

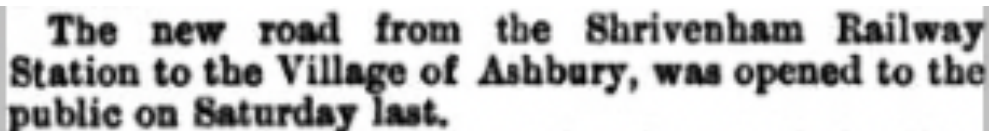
**Ashbury Information by email** Ad hoc emails are circulated to residents with up to date particulars about Ashbury events and other relevant information. If you would like your name added to the circulation list please email:

[ashburyoxfordshire@hotmail.com](mailto:ashburyoxfordshire@hotmail.com)

## **NEW RESIDENTS TO ASHBURY, IDSTONE & KINGSTONE WINSLOW**

A pack is available for new residents which contains useful information. If you have moved into the village recently and would like to receive a pack, or if you have a new neighbour, please contact Margaret Smith (710800) for Ashbury & Idstone or Anne Taylor (07491 035582) for Kingstone Winslow

### **From the archives**



The new road from the Shrivenham Railway Station to the Village of Ashbury, was opened to the public on Saturday last.

**Wilts and Gloucester Standard Sat 16<sup>th</sup> April 1870**

**BURGLARY.**—James Cox, of Wanborough, was brought before Mr. T. L. Goodlake, on Monday, charged with breaking into the dwelling-house of Mrs. Collins, of Ashbury, and stealing therefrom six knives and forks, and other articles. The offence was committed in August, 1865, since which time Cox has been an inmate of Devoe's Gaol on another charge, and was apprehended, on leaving that establishment, by Superintendent Johnson. The prosecutrix's son being, however, unable to swear to some of the stolen property, which was produced, the prisoner was discharged.

Swindon Advertiser 8<sup>th</sup> April 1867

### Longcot

**Spring Concert on Saturday 18th May 2024 at 6 pm in St. Mary's Church, Longcot**

The Clarinet Collective returns to St. Mary's Church, Longcot on Saturday 18th May to present evening of relaxing and uplifting music to put a spring in your step! **The church will be decorated with seasonal flower arrangements on the theme of 'An English Country Garden' which can be enjoyed before and during the concert. The display will remain in the church till Friday 25th May.**

The Clarinet Collective is a group of professional freelance musicians who have worked with many of London's leading orchestras over the years. Their lively and eclectic programmes of music for clarinet sextet have been much enjoyed by audiences at St. Mary's Church since 2019. They are looking forward to performing some new arrangements of much-loved pieces by some of our greatest composers, including Bach, Mozart, Dvorak and Vaughan Williams. Guest flautist Peter Lewis will be joining the Clarinet Collective to perform the meltingly beautiful Adagio from Gounod's Petite Symphonie, and at the lighter end of the musical spectrum there will be dance music by Johann Strauss and classic hits from the 30's and 40's.

Admission is free with a retiring collection, however all seats should be reserved in advance by email to [victorialmedcalf@gmail.com](mailto:victorialmedcalf@gmail.com) Profits will be shared between St. Mary's Church and the Longcot Village Trust. The bar will be open from 5.30 pm and at the interval.

## CHURCH MATTERS:

### APRIL SERVICES IN ASHBURY, COMPTON, LONGCOT & FERNHAM WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:

*The service times are correct at the time of writing (11 March). For the latest news and information, please download the weekly Newsletter from our website.*

*The churches in Ashbury, Longcot and Compton Beauchamp are also open daily for private prayer.*

<b>Sunday 7 April</b>	9.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Compton
	9.30am	Holy Communion	Longcot
		by extension	
<b>Thursday 11 April</b>	11.00am	Morning Prayer	Ashbury
	10.00am	Holy Communion	Ashbury
<b>Sunday 14 April</b>	9.30am	Holy Communion	Longcot
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Ashbury
<b>Sunday 21 April</b>	9.00am	Matins	Compton
	9.30am	Morning Prayer	Longcot
	11.00am	Third Sunday service	Ashbury
<b>Sunday 28 April</b>	10.30am	Benefice Holy Communion With Choir	Ashbury

*\*Although everyone is welcome to attend any services, those marked with an asterisk are designed as services for the whole benefice*

**Ashbury prayer cycle for April** - 7<sup>th</sup> April, Ashdown Estate, 14<sup>th</sup> April, High Street, 21<sup>st</sup> April, Idstone Road, 28<sup>th</sup>, Idstone

**All online Morning Prayer, Communion services and sermons can be watched on the Shrivenham and Ashbury Facebook page.**

If you are unable to join us in person, do join online through services and study groups on the Benefice Facebook page. You do not need a Facebook account to access these events. Details of online services are also on the weekly sheet and on Facebook.

**PASTORAL CARE** If you have need for prayer or pastoral support, or wish to discuss a wedding or baptism, do not hesitate to contact Rev'd Norma Fergusson ([vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk](mailto:vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk) or 01793 784338 or Rev'd Patrick Mabhunu ([associatevicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk](mailto:associatevicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk) or 07471 434276).

**May your Easter celebration fill your hearts with happiness and your home with love and laughter! May the risen Lord renew you and set you on a new path with many blessings.**

*From Norma, Richard and Patrick*

**CHURCHYARD "SPRING CLEAN"**

**Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> April**

**10am- Noon**

We would greatly appreciate as many helpers as we can to carry out our annual Churchyard "Spring Clean" on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April at 10am. Usually we attract about 24 people such that as well getting the Churchyards ready for summer it is also a very social occasion. Hot refreshments will be available. As well as appropriate garden tools (secateurs, hard brush, trowel) it would also be helpful if, those who can, could bring a wheelbarrow or strimmer

Newcomers to the village are especially welcome where you can get to know other locals

**Support your local church or the Benefice as a whole with a text donation using the numbers below**

**For Ashbury Text STMARYS 5 to 70085 to donate £5 or Text STMARYS 10 to 70085 to donate £10**

**For Longcot and Fernham Text LONGCOT to 70085 to donate £4**

**For Compton Beauchamp Text 5CB to 70450 to donate £5 or Text 10CB to 70460 to donate £5**

**For the Benefice as a whole**

**Text GIVEfive to 70470 to donate £5 or Text GIVEten to 70470 to donate £10**

**Your standard text message rate applies.**

## LONGCOT

### **T TIME FELLOWSHIP 2.30pm FRIDAY 26th APRIL**

Everyone is most welcome to join us in St. Mary's Church for tea, cakes, chat and laughter and the chance to catch up with the local news. There is no charge but donations to our chosen good cause are always welcome.

**The Ambassadors Bible Church** meet at what was the Ashbury Evangelical Free Church at 10:00 am each Sunday morning. All are welcome and there is also a Sunday School for the Children which meets at the same time.

## **Community Led Housing Event**

**When: 7 pm - 8.30 pm, Tuesday 16 April 2024**

**Where: St Andrew's Church, Church Walk, Shrivenham, Swindon SN6 8AQ**

**Speakers: Kay Sentence from: [www.collaborativehousing.org.uk](http://www.collaborativehousing.org.uk)  
AND Zarine Jacob local resident**

**Free to attend and it helps if you book your place by emailing us, please! [OrchardsCLH@gmail.com](mailto:OrchardsCLH@gmail.com)**

**Are you wondering what CLH is or how to go about it locally?**

**Is it only social housing?**

**What might citizens do to live in ways that meets their needs?**

**Come and find out more in this no-cost open event.**

**Tea/coffee served from 6.45 pm so we can start promptly.**

**We will have time for Q and A so bring your questions!**



## Country Matters

We hoped for a dry March but that failed. It keeps raining which is holding up work on the farm. I heard the first chiff- chaff on Sunday March 17th and hedges are greening up nearly a month early. However, I will concentrate on deer and squirrels. With DEFRA incentivising the planting of more woodland and hedges as part of environmental policies aimed at cutting carbon, the Government is rightly concerned that these two marauding species will predate and fraught the delivery of this policy.

The imported grey squirrels damage deciduous trees by debarking the leading branch, causing serious stunting. I may have mentioned before that in the 1950's Harold Macmillan was serving in Winston Churchill's cabinet with responsibility for forestry which needed promoting after the war. He arranged for the MAFF (Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food and forerunner of DEFRA) to pay I think a shilling (5p) for each squirrel tail. My brother and I saw two squirrels enter a hole on a dead tree. We set fire to this small tree and managed to shoot six as the smoke forced them out. The tails were boxed up and sent to Oxford! Some call them tree rats but as nut eaters I am prepared to eat squirrel.

Defra's latest policy will aim to promote a squirrel feed additive with gene editing that will mean birth of only one sex to prevent breeding and control of future numbers. The feeders would only be accessible to greys so if successful this policy might allow the native red squirrels to expand from their small existing territories. Their numbers have fallen from 3.5 million to a few hundred thousand.

The escalating numbers in the deer population is obvious in this neck of the woods. Only yesterday I saw twelve fallow bucks, well antlered, down in the vale on our Zulu farm; in these numbers there for the first time. I rang a friend and he shot two enormous beasts that evening. Defra reports that the deer population is the highest for a 1,000 years and fertility control is not possible. Some are advocating the reintroduction of wolves to reduce numbers but they would also take sheep. Culling by rifle remains the only option.

Venison has been called Britain's most sustainable meat but the market needs further incentives to develop, particularly in the south. Government plans to use more venison in hospitals, army barracks and in the prisons and maybe into food banks. Venison needs to be cheaper in the supermarkets. Muntjac are also a problem. They can breed all the year round and they gnaw the bark and kill trees at ground level.

**Richard Green**

## Contacts

### **Ashbury Parish Council**

Chairman: Christopher Prentice 01793 710821 [chair@ashbury.org.uk](mailto:chair@ashbury.org.uk)

Clerk to the council: Laura Evans email [clerk@ashbury.org.uk](mailto:clerk@ashbury.org.uk)

**Defibrillators:** On the wall by the School entrance and outside the Rose and Crown.

### **St Mary's Ashbury Parochial Church Council**

Church wardens: Maggie Simons 01793 710801 Richard Green 01793 791310

Vicar (Shrivenham) Revd Norma Fergusson 01793 784338

[rev.n.fergusson@btinternet.com](mailto:rev.n.fergusson@btinternet.com) (not Monday)

Associate vicar: Revd Patrick Mabhuu [associate.vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk](mailto:associate.vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk)

07471 434276

### **Ashbury Village Hall**

Maggie Simons 01793 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 with Compton Beauchamp CE(A) Primary School and little Berries Preschool**

**Headteacher** Rachael Smith 01793 710259 www. <http://www.ashburyprimary.org.uk>  
**office.3851@ashbury.oxon.sch.uk**

**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:** Katherine Foxhall 07916 285305

[katherine.foxhall@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:katherine.foxhall@whitehorsedc.gov.uk) and Viral Patel [viral.patel@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:viral.patel@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:** David Johnston

[david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk) 0207 219 3000

**Newsletter entries for May 2024.** Submit your entries for **May** by **20<sup>th</sup> April** 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.