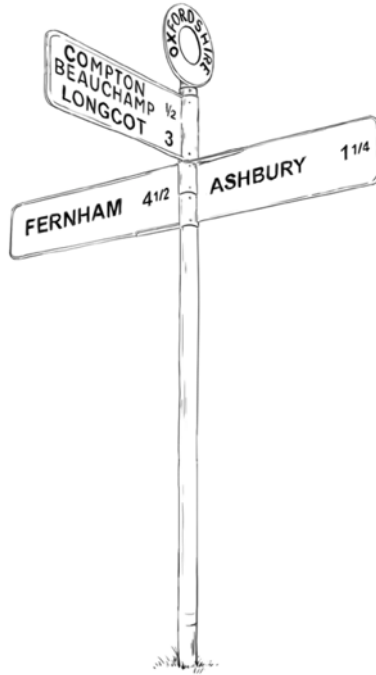


**ASHBURY
COMPTON LONGCOT FERNHAM
NEWS
AUGUST 2026**



Zimbabwe 2: 1st

Community Club 27th

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

The "Thought for the month" has been delayed as Patrick is on compassionate leave in Zimbabwe following the death of his sister, so perhaps our thoughts should be on him and all those who are grieving.

Ashbury

Village Hall

Village Hall fire/smoke detector testing - The Village Hall has recently been fitted with fire/smoke detector alarms. The Village Hall Team will regularly test these alarms, **usually on a fortnightly basis during the day**, which means you may hear the alarms going off for a short period during these tests.

Please do not be concerned unless you hear the alarms continuously sounding; a continuous beeping would not be normal. If you can see that no-one is in the Village Hall when the alarm is continuously sounding (or you suspect a fire), please contact the fire brigade and also any of the Village Hall keyholders.

Should you have any questions about this message, please get in touch with Sandra Dagnall on 07773 379703 or Chris Millard on 07768 055300

Thank you for your consideration

Community Club

Thursday, 27th August. 2.30pm Village Hall

"I was a Chartist Boy"

Stewart Smith will tell the story of plots 7 and 8 on Charterville, Minster Lovell. (He has all the deeds of plot seven from 1838 to 1973)

Entrance fee £2 includes tea & biscuits.

Everyone is welcome to come along, whether you live locally or are just visiting for the day. **No need to book, but for any questions Tel. 01793 710358**

Jackie Baker

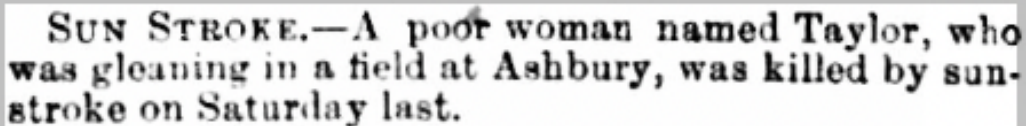
Advance notice!

Badapple Theatre presents 'Back to the Land Girls' - On Friday 2nd October (doors open at 6.30pm, 7.30pm start) we are delighted to welcome back the Badapple Theatre group. 'Back to the Land Girls' was inspired by interviews with a number of incredible women from Yorkshire who worked on the land during WW2. Their comic and poignant stories led Kate Bramley to create the heart-warming journey of Buff and Biddy who arrive in the countryside not knowing one end of a cow from the other. Their camaraderie and friendship sustain them on a journey of back-breaking work but delightful independence, of dreams of fame and romance and always the hope that the end of the war is just around the corner.

We are pleased to offer an early bird discount of £12.50 a ticket, normally £15. Concessions are also £12.50. Please purchase your tickets through the website (a £1 booking fee has to be added) <https://www.badappletheatre.co.uk/product/back-to-the-land-girls-ashbury/> or contact Sandra Dagnall on 07773 379703.

Ashbury Village Quiz Saturday 17th October - The annual quiz (which pitches road against road from Kingstone Winslow, Idstone and Ashbury) will be back on Saturday 17th October - will last year's winners retain the shield or will they be deposed??! Please keep the date free and we will shortly be in touch to give more details.

Augusts Past



SUN STROKE.—A poor woman named Taylor, who was gleaning in a field at Ashbury, was killed by sun-stroke on Saturday last.

Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle 10th August 1868

ASHBURY BERKS.

Messrs. KING and ADKIN

ARE instructed to Sell by Auction, at the Rose and Crown Inn, Ashbury, on Friday, September 7th, 1888, at 3 for 4 o'clock in the afternoon, all that Capital Freehold PROPERTY, Situate in the Village of Ashbury, 2½ miles from Shrivenham Station, G.W.R., and 8 miles from Faringdon, comprising Grocer's and General Shop, with Dwelling House, containing 2 Sitting Rooms, 3 Bedrooms, Kitchen, Scullery and Store, also Trade Premises, including Bakehouse with 5-bushel oven, Flour Room, Shed, Brick built and slated Stable and Chaff-house, with Copper. There is a small Garden and Well of Water. The Property is let to Mr John White, on a 7 years' lease, from Lady-day, 1887, at a Rental of £18 per annum, and offers a good Investment.

Particulars may be obtained of L. Jotcham, Esq. Solicitor, Wantage, and of Messrs. King and Adkin, Auctioneers and Land Agents, Wantage and Abingdon.

Faringdon Advertiser 30th August 1888.

Note the rent- £18 per annum.

CHURCH MATTERS

AUGUST 2026 SERVICES IN ASHBURY, COMPTON, LONGCOT & FERNHAM WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:

The service times are correct at the time of writing (16 July). For the latest news and information, please download the weekly Newsletter from our website.

The churches in Ashbury & Longcot are also open daily for private prayer.

Sunday 2 August	9.30am	Holy Communion	Longcot
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Ashbury
Sunday 9 August	9.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)Compton	
Regis House*	9.30am	Morning Prayer	Longcot
	11.00am	Morning Prayer	Ashbury
Sunday 16 August	9.30am	Morning Prayer	Longcot
Sunday 23 August	11.00am	Morning Worship	Ashbury
	9.30am	Holy Communion	Longcot
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Ashbury
Sunday 30 August**	10.30am	Benefice Holy Communion with Choir	
			Fernham

***St. Swithun's church Compton is closed for major refurbishment. Communion services will be held in Compton Regis House. Space in the former chapel is very limited so please let Joanna Lambert know in advance if you plan to attend the service: 07990 898 175**

***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 August - 2nd August- Berrycroft, 9th August- Berrycroft Lane, 16th August, Chapel Lane, 23rd August- Church Lane, 30th August- College Farm Lane.

During August there will be no Online Morning Prayer

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 Patrick Mabhunu (vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk 07471 434276) or Rev'd Janet Anderson-MacKenzie (associate.vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk on 07821 474 711)*

Support your local church or the Benefice 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*

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 *£10*

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.*

VISITING BELL RINGERS on Wednesday 5th August 9.30 – 10.30. A visiting group of bell ringers are ringing quarter-peals around area and are planning to start ringing in Ashbury from about 9.30am.

TEA & CHAT' 1st Tuesday of each month from 2.00 to 3.30pm 'Tea & Chat' will take place at **Ashbury** Ambassador Bible Church (known also as Ashbury Evangelical Free Church). Plenty of coffee and cake to be had as well as 'tea and chat'. Admission free. All welcome, including children. *The meetings will now be in the church as the cabin was rather noisy!*

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.

Country Matters

Regulars will know of my interest in the stonechats at the bottom of the lynchets valley at Bishopstone. Their young have now fledged and I think I see a family of seven.

I came to Rectory Farm, Idstone in late September 1973 with Penny aged 22 and a springer spaniel called Flop. We had been married a year. Our kitchen then depended on a Belfast sink with ivy growing up inside of the kitchen wall and it took us a while to eliminate the many cockroaches that emerged from the kitchen surrounds particularly evident when we switched the light on after darkness.

Rectory Farm is serviced by the Church Commissioners' private water supply from a spring behind the City at Bishopstone, with water pumped to two reservoirs on the downs for a gravity feed. Thames Water are to introduce a hosepipe ban this year on July 23rd. After the hot summers of 1975 and 1976 the private water supply was diminished to the extent that Thames Water bolstered the estate needs as a temporary solution with additional main supply water tanks installed in the grounds on the Old Mill at Bishopstone, now of course converted to residential.

50 years on a repeat of this has not proved necessary to date and the spring supply is so far still flowing to meet all our needs. As I write these notes, the harvest is continuing at pace with the grains very dry and with disappointing cereal yields though the oil seed rape harvested first was quite good. Variable rain in June means some wheat yields round here are close to average but most are 33% down. 50 years on, despite all the strides in agronomy management and plant breeding, crops and grass remain very dependent on moisture to achieve their potential. Our gardens are going to have to cope now without sprinklers which is unbelievable after such a wet winter. But that's another story.

The silver lining of this drought will be the saving on drying costs by expensive diesel or electricity, a much earlier finish (touch wood) and the gain of time which can which be priceless. In 1976 many farmers finished harvest in July and we here finished on Aug 4, but this year we have the later crop to harvest of spring beans which may not be fit to cut by that date. Cattle are still just eking a living from the parched pastures and we hope to have enough conserved to take us through a long winter. They may need some hay bales soon but it is amazing how stock seem to thrive in hot weather. Eye infections which are known as New Forest Eye are a downside problem of this very hot weather, despite our cattle having been protected by an anti-fly treatment poured along the spine.

Richard Green

Contacts

Ashbury Parish Council

Chairman: Christopher Prentice 01793 710821 chair@ashbury.org.uk

Clerk to the council: Laura Evans email 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 Patrick Mabhun [mail to:](mailto:mail.to:)

vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk 07471 434276

or Revd Dr Janet AndersonMacKenzie (associate.vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk)
on 07821 474 711

Ashbury Village Hall

Chris Millard mailto:villagehall@ashbury.org.uk

Secretary Sandra Dagnall 07773 379703 sandrajdagnall@gmail.com

Bookings: Laura 07766 338551 and Steve Pilkington 0773 9692076 [mail to:](mailto:mail.to:)

steve_pilkington@yahoo.co.uk

Ashbury with Compton Beauchamp CE(A) Primary School and little Berries

Preschool Headteacher Tim Miller 01793 710259 mail to: office@ash.cambrianlt.org

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: Katherine Foxhall 07916 285305

katherine.foxhall@whitehorsedc.gov.uk and Viral Patel

viral.patel@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

County Councillor: Emma Markham emma.markham@oxfordshire.gov.uk

M.P. for the Witney constituency: Charlie Maynard:

charlie.maynard.mp@parliament.uk

Newsletter entries for September 2026. Submit your entries by **August 22nd** to: M. Turner Claremont, Ashbury SN6 8LN. marionlturner@me.com 01793 710302 see also www.ashbury.org.uk and the community page on Facebook.

All views expressed are those of the contributors.