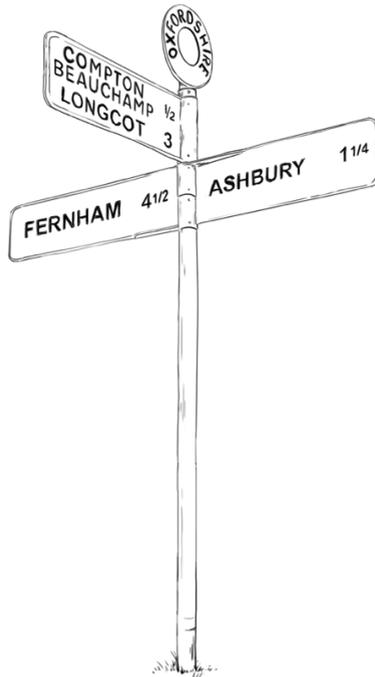


ASHBURY COMPTON LONGCOT FERNHAM NEWS

JULY 2019



Major Events this month

Referendum on Ashbury's Neighbourhood Plan 4th July

Bishopstone Fete 6th

Music for a summer's Evening Longcot 13th

Thought for the month

Leafing through some old books the other day, I found a card used as a bookmark. It is said to be a 17th century prayer, but it seems very modern and pertinent to me:

Lord, Thou knowest better than I know myself that I am growing older and will some day be old. Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion. Release me from craving to straighten out everybody's affairs. Make me thoughtful but not moody: helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it at all, but Thou knowest Lord that I want a few friends at the end. Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details; give me wings to get to the point. Seal my lips on my aches and pains. They are increasing, and love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by. I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of others' pains, but help me to endure them with patience.

I dare not ask for improved memory, but for a growing humility and a lessening cocksureness when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken. Keep me reasonably sweet; I do not want to be a Saint - some of them are so hard to live with - but a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the devil. Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places, and talents in unexpected people. And give me, O Lord, the grace to tell them so. Amen

Norma

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

Ashbury News

Christian Aid collection

Many thanks to all involved with the door to door Christian Aid collection. The total amount from the collection and other donations came to £980.73 - a fantastic result. Thanks again to all concerned.

Safari Supper – A huge thank you to everyone who took part in the village Safari Supper on Saturday 12 May. It was a brilliant evening, lots of fun and a resounding success. We raised £340 for St Mary's which will go towards providing toilet facilities in the church.

NB Ashbury Village Fete, Car Boot Sale and "Fun Dog Show"
JUNE 29TH 12-4pm

**SHAPE THE FUTURE OF OUR PARISH
REFERENDUM ON
THURSDAY 4 JULY 2019**

PLEASE VOTE

**FOR THE PARISH of ASHBURY
NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN
The Neighbourhood Plan would:**

- **Exert our influence on any development through-out the Parish**
- **Work to improve community assets and services; in particular:**
 - **Work to protect the existing bus service to Swindon**
- **Seek to protect our natural environment, the green spaces and the chalk streams.**
- **Protect and enhance our built heritage**
- **Protect our enjoyment of night skies free of light pollution**
- **Register the future needs of our community**

Vote by post or at Ashbury Village Hall on Thursday 04 July

Ashbury Community Club Thursday 25th July

Andy Foley who lives in the village and is the Area Ranger for White Horse Hill and Ashdown will be telling us about the work of the National Trust in West Oxfordshire. This will be of interest to anyone who lives locally so visitors are most welcome - just £2 which includes tea & biscuits.

See you at 2.30pm in Ashbury Village Hall.

Jackie Baker, 710358

Bishopstone 'Raising the Roof' Country Garden Fête

Saturday 6th July from 12 noon to 4.00 pm

This year's fete will be held in the gardens of The Old Vicarage in the heart of the picturesque village of Bishopstone. It offers all the charm of a traditional garden fete but with so much more for all the family!

Come and enjoy a wide range of attractions including:

delicious cream teas, ice creams, the Flying Pig organic BBQ, a licensed bar & a dog show. Lots of stalls including plants, homemade cakes & jams, white elephant, books, accessories, toys, crafts, antiques, chocolate tombola & much more
Vintage cars & bikes, steam engine & armoured military vehicles.

And especially for children - a bouncy castle, face painting, tattoos & nails, toy stall, games, sideshows & Shetland ponies

Free entrance for under 16s

The fete is particularly important this year as we are raising funds to replace the church roof after thieves stole the lead from St Mary's Bishopstone

Village Green update

Work on Ashbury Playing Field is set to start in early August. There will be heavy machinery on the Green for about 3 weeks, arriving and leaving via Malthouse Close. The contractor will protect the road surface. We shall be delivering leaflets to houses in Wixes Piece and Malthouse Close with more details and information about who to contact with questions or problems.

Most of the Green will be closed for the same period. I realise that this will be inconvenient, but please, everyone, especially children, don't go onto the work site. You could damage the work in progress or get hurt. When the new grass seed has been sown we shall need to be make sure it has the best possible chance to grow. The area will be taped off. Please don't walk or play on it until the tapes come down.

The Trustees of the William Cash Fund have agreed to contribute £2,000 towards the cost of the Playing Field. This takes us another big step towards our goal of £26,500. But we still need another £5,000. We're applying to other charitable organisations, and also asking people in the village to donate if they can. It's a really worthwhile cause – one that will benefit the whole community.

People have been very supportive in keeping the green clean and on recent visits I haven't seen a single piece of rubbish or dog poo! A big "thank you" to everyone – let's see if we can keep it up! **Liz Derrington**

elizabethderrington45@gmail.com or phone 710813)

Longcot News

Music for a Summer's Evening on Saturday 13th July at 6pm in St. Mary's Church, Longcot

Following on from a successful concert in May by the Clarinet Collective, local clarinettist Victoria Medcalf returns with her string-playing friends in the Torriano Ensemble to present a concert of light classical music for clarinet and strings in St. Mary's Church, Longcot. The programme will include a clarinet quartet by Bernard Crusell, Massenet's much-loved Meditation from 'Thais', an arrangement of four traditional folk songs by Robin Wedderburn entitled 'Rose, Leek, Thistle and Shamrock' and Mozart's sublime Clarinet Quintet K.V 581. There will be a bar which will serve drinks before the concert and at the interval. Entry to the concert is free with donations in aid of the Longcot Trust fund towards creating a new community space for the village in St. Mary's Church.

Church Matters

Ashbury: St Mary's services are at **11am** each Sunday except **N.B.** Benefice service 21st. at Compton: (St Swithun's Patronal Festival) 10.30am.

Compton: 9am on July 7th. Patronal Festival on 21st at **10.30am**.

Longcot: **4.30pm** on July 7th joint service at *Shrivenham*. **9.30am** on 14th and 28th. **6pm** on 21st.

Fernham: **4.30pm**. on July 7th joint service at *Shrivenham*. **9am** on 14th, **6pm** on 28th.

The Ashbury prayer cycle for July will be: 7th Wixes Piece, 14th, Ashbury Hill, 21st Berrycroft, 28th Berrycroft Lane.

Ashbury Evangelical Free Church

Communion service 14th July.

Tea and chat Wednesdays 3rd and 17th July 2.15pm. Everyone is welcome!!

Longcot Churches working together -Chapel News

Sun. 7th There will be NO SERVICE in the Chapel this month. Our Methodist minister, Revd. Keith Osborn, will be leaving us in July and so there will be a CIRCUIT SERVICE at 6pm on SHRIVENHAM REC, which will be preceded by a picnic at 4.30pm and everyone is welcome to both.

If it's wet we shall retreat into Shrivenham Methodist Church.

Fri. 26th 3pm -T Time Fellowship. There will be a warm welcome for anyone wishing to join us for afternoon tea. There is no charge but donations to our chosen charity are welcome. If transport would help or you need to know more please ring Stella Tidmarsh on 01793 782584.

NB here will be no T Time Fellowship meeting in August BUT..... CREAM TEAS will be served in the Chapel from 3 – 4.30pm on Tues. 20th, Weds. 21st and Thurs.22nd .

Around the Benefice

Schools

There is a service for headteachers in the Cathedral at 11am in Oxford Cathedral: a timely reminder that the end of term is ever nearer even if we are not yet at the stage of counting sleeps! Thank you to all the staff and volunteers who do so much for the children in our schools. Thank you to the children who bring such joy. Have a wonderful summer break and may the autumn term bring wonderful new opportunities for everyone.

Monthly midweek Communion services

Continue in St Mary's Longcot at 5pm on the first Tuesday of the month and at 11am in St Mary's Ashbury on the second Thursday. All welcome

Faringdon Singers Summer concerts

The Singers will be performing in Shrivenham Methodist Church on Saturday 13 July and in Uffington Memorial Hall on Sunday 14 July. For further details see their website www.faringdonsingers.org.uk

Breakfast groups

All welcome to the groups which meet at 8am on the first and last Saturday of the month

Bible study – first Saturday

Men's breakfast – last Saturday

Music for a summer's evening –

A Concert by the Torriano Ensemble (clarinet and string quartet) in St Mary's Longcot –at 6pm on Saturday 13 July.

Norma

Country Matters

We are now having a dripping June which as the saying goes “will keep things in tune”, to probably cancel out the prospect of a drought this summer. Something many were worried about following a dry winter and dry summer last year.

At the Bishopstone church roof appeal dinner at the Royal Oak in April four friends bid for our promise to show them orchids growing wild on the downs followed by a supper. 49 different varieties are listed but I only know of 5 locally. Varieties are identified by different flower structures. They are coming on June 13th. Getting the right date and evening to fit peoples’ diaries and when the most species are showing at their best is challenging. The most striking of local orchids is the pyramidal showing tightly packed deep pink flowers from mid June on a stem up to 20 cm long but they will only just be coming visible for our tour. I once found one away from the chalk on a footpath behind the old bakery in Fernham.

On Russley downs we have fragrant and the uncommon burnt tip orchid. Burnt tip are fairly common in the Wylve valley near the A303 in Wiltshire but our site is one of the very few bordering Oxfordshire. These little pink and white orchids grow only 5-10 cm high and it takes a practiced eye to spot them. Indeed after buying Lammydown farm in 1992 we were unaware of their presence for 10 years. They flower earlier and will probably be past their best by June 13th.

The Common spotted orchid, so called because of its spotted leaves, is profuse on Helen Browning’s wide open valley on the Oxfordshire/ Wiltshire border. The colour can vary from albino to pink and this site also is good for the fragrant orchid which has a similar open canopy but a more uniformly pink colour with a fragrance said to be similar to carnations. Pyramidal also abound here.

Bee orchids are now rare on the chalk in this area. They also need a practiced eye and before he died last year Ray Gigg, a long time resident of Ashbury, showed me an example on the track to the downs opposite Odstone farm, Ashbury.

Jonathan Loose of Kingston Winslow has shown me helleborines growing under beech trees on the ridgeway near Waylands Smithy. The National Trust valley rising above the village hall carpark in Hinton Parva is another good site for orchids. Never try to transplant a wild orchid. They can only thrive in the presence of a mycorrhizal fungus and the tiny seeds will take time to show leaves and further years before flowering.

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

Associate Vicar Revd Norma Fergusson 01793 710055 rev.n.fergusson@btinternet.com

(not Mondays or Fridays)

Church warden: Maggie Simons 01793 710801

Secretary: Roger Simons 01793 710801 rogersimons1@outlook.com

Vicar interregnum (Shrivenham)

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 **August** 2019. Submit your entries for August by **19th July** to: M. Turner Claremont, Ashbury SN6 8LN. marionturner@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.