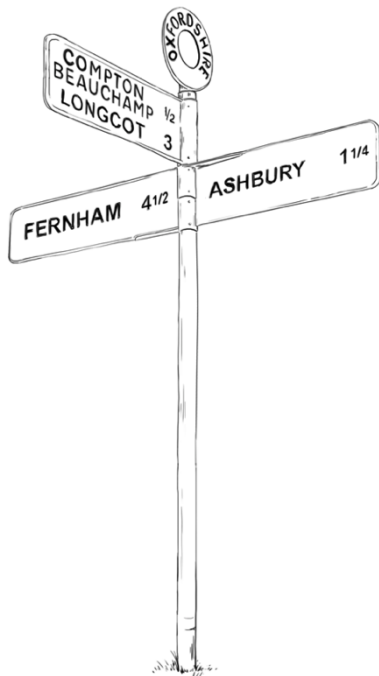


**ASHBURY
COMPTON LONGCOT FERNHAM
NEWS
JUNE 2024**



**D-Day Commemorative bellringing 6th
Rainbow Concert St Mary's 22nd
Community Club 27th
Ashbury School tercentenary Celebrations 28th**

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Truth, Lies and counterfeit

What is truth and is Truth absolute..... can my truth be different to yours? Anyone who knows me knows that I am interested in art and almost every day I look at and learn something about paintings. The trouble is in the art world, as in the world in general, there are so many fakes and counterfeits, so you have to be very careful. It is said that L S Lowry painted about 450 paintings in his lifetime, of which only about 5,000 have survived! with so many fake this and fake that how are we meant to know what is real and true.

So how can we find the truth?..... when you log onto various websites you have to verify who you are in various ways, maybe by password, biometrics etc. .. sometimes we may have to show a driver's licence or a utility bill, all to prove the truth that you are who you say you are.

Criminals seek ways to distort or imitate the truth..... some steal information about you so they can falsely 'verify' the truth that they are you!..... stealing your very identity, so that you have great difficulty proving the actual truth, that you are you. There is so much fake news about, it is difficult to discern the truth about anything.... But then why not just seek the truth on Google? But then be careful there too..... wasn't it Julius Caesar who said you can't believe all that you read on the internet?

The Bible is God's Word, and God, by nature, cannot lie. Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, nobody can come to the Father except by Me". It also says elsewhere, "Test all things and hold onto what is good". On the flip side, the devil is the father of lies and he is all out to deceive, he hates the truth and does all the can to keep us from it.

The bible speaks the truth that we have all sinned and fallen short of God's requirements, but Jesus is THE ONLY WAY that the relationship with God can be restored, so we can live as He intended us to live.

God Loves us and wants us to be with Him, don't let the devil deceive you otherwise. But don't take my word for it. Read the Bible for yourself and find the Truth....Absolute Truth! (404)

Andrew Bunce

Ashbury

Councillor's Corner May 2024

Your Council held our Annual General Meeting and regular bi-monthly meeting on 20 May. It was an opportunity to reflect on the year since the 'election' last year (we are still looking for a further volunteer to join us on the Council – would you be interested?); and to look forward to some significant changes – on the way.

My first business as Chair was to record our thanks to Pauline Smith for her extraordinary work over the last three years leading the Neighbourhood Planning Group. Pauline has been meticulous in her care for every aspect of this complex role. She is stepping down from the end of this month and is simply irreplaceable. As an interim measure, the remaining members of the NPG will be taking it in turns to lead on the APC's responses to planning applications.

Still on planning matters, I reported that we shall be conducting a first consultation of all households in the parish on how best to adapt and update the policies in our Neighbourhood Plan to take account of local and national developments since you all approved the Plan in the 2019 referendum. Between 03 and 05 June, a two-page survey will be delivered to your home by our volunteers, asking for your views on possible new planning policies. Do please send in your responses, so that we can best reflect your wishes as we embark on the long path towards a revised Neighbourhood Plan.

Our meeting was also the first opportunity to report formally that a new sub-lease for the Ashbury Shop and Café has been signed with Clare Call, of Baking Bee fame. Clare presented a convincing business plan and is already hard at work preparing to open as soon as she can in the next few weeks. Do watch out for the announcement and do, please, give Clare and her team your sustained support and custom, so that the shop can again become a vibrant centre for the whole parish. I am most grateful to James Greenham for leading the sub-committee whose work has delivered this most promising outcome for you all.

Another happy piece of news is that families in the parish will soon be able to enjoy a new toddler swing and a new sprung rocking horse in the playground on the Village Green. The contractors, Playdale, will be coming in the week beginning 10 June to install this equipment. We shall be informing immediate neighbours, and the school, about the necessary arrangements for the installation, which is set to last two days. The playground will, of course, need to be closed during the work.

Finally, there is a development to report for residents of Idstone, who may be interested in access to superfast broadband (FTTP - fibre to the premises). Idstone has been identified as an area of particularly poor connectivity and Gigaclear have the contract to offer this service in Idstone under the national programme to improve rural connectivity.

The Council heard that Gigaclear have recently asked residents of Idstone for expressions of interest in this project. If there is a sufficiently wide response, it seems possible that improved broadband service for Idstone may be in sight.

Christopher Prentice
Chair, Ashbury Parish Council

Commemorating the D-Day landings

Ashbury bellringers will be ringing the bells at 7pm on **Thursday June 6th** to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings.

Ashbury Community Club

Thursday 27th June 2.30pm. Village Hall
"Wildflowers"

Rebecca Brain is a gardener who grows and sells plants from her home in Bishopstone. She will present a slideshow celebrating native wildflowers as they appear throughout the year and will also explain how we can use many of them in our own gardens. All welcome - no need to book.

Visitors £2 - includes tea & biscuits

Ashbury Walking Group


Do you enjoy walks in the countryside in the company of friendly people? If so join us for our **Sunday** afternoon walks which take place on the 3rd Sunday of each month.

We meet at 2pm at the bus stop near the pub in the centre of the village and walk approx. 5 miles on local footpaths around Ashbury, finishing between 4pm and 5pm. It's an informal group, and dogs are welcome. For more information contact Sue Reade 710208 / sue_reade@btinternet.com

This month's walk will be on **16th June**

Ashbury Primary School Celebrations

Ashbury and Compton Beauchamp CofE Primary School is 300 years old this year! We are planning a wonderful celebratory party on Friday 28th June and invite all members of the Ashbury village community to join us! The event will begin at 3pm at Ashbury Primary School where we will be unveiling a plaque and the children will perform a specially commissioned piece of music. We will then parade around the village green before heading to Ashbury Manor for food, drink and dancing. It promises to be a very special day which we look forward to celebrating with all who can make it. Tickets are £5 per person, available during post office hours from June 1st at the Rose & Crown or via the link on the community Facebook page. With best wishes, all at Ashbury Primary School.



FRIDAY 28TH JUNE FROM 3PM

**A VERY SPECIAL CELEBRATION
FOR THE WHOLE COMMUNITY**

**TICKETS £5
ON SALE FROM JUNE 1ST**

3PM CEREMONY AT ASHBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL
FOLLOWED BY A PARTY AT ASHBURY MANOR

FREE ENTRY TO ASHBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL PUPILS

BUY YOUR TICKETS VIA CLASSLIST OR THE ASHBURY COMMUNITY FACEBOOK PAGE.
ALSO AVAILABLE AT THE ROSE & CROWN DURING POST OFFICE HOURS - WEDS AND FRIDAY MORNINGS

Rainbow Concert
St Mary's Church
Saturday 22nd June
7pm – 9pm
Featuring:

The Scratch Choir
The Sing a Bulls
Ashbury Primary School Choir
The Rose and Crooners

Tickets £2 available from the Rose and Crown or
Maggie Simons – 710801
Funds raised will go towards the cleaning and
preservation of the church stained glass windows

Ashbury Village Hall.

At our AGM on 15th May, I was very pleased to be asked to succeed Maggie Simons as Chair which I consider a privilege following the excellent work that Maggie and the committee have done in recent years, refurbishing our hall for the community, and bringing it up to date with broadband, PA system and the like. After almost 18 years Maggie has retired from the committee. Also after a total of over 60 years service between them, Diane Lovegrove and Lin Clarke have also retired from the team. Their collective contribution to village and community life for as long as many of us can remember has been amazing, and we are sure that the whole community wishes them a well earned 'retirement'. Thank you!

Our team has therefore been joined by some new members who were warmly welcomed at the AGM and will see us fit for the future.

Laura and Steve Pilkington have taken on the bookings role from Lin Clarke (see updated contact details in this newsletter). They are joined by Sandra Dagnall, Janice Honeyman, Lynne Phillips and Eliza Lewis who represents the Parish Council. Collectively, we will be supported by great experience in our existing members, Margaret Smith, Jo Cholmeley, Jackie and Roger Baker, Julia Blake, Pete Smith, and Simon Edwards.

We are all looking forward to building on the excellent work that Maggie and the Team have done.

Chris Millard
Chair, Ashbury Village Hall.

BISHOPSTONE WITH HINTON PARVA WI

The guest speaker at our May meeting was Robert McGuigan, a senior paramedic with local Ambulance Services who demonstrated many of the techniques needed to apply effective CPR and uses of Defibrillator machines. Rob quoted that after a cardiac arrest the patient has a 10% survival rate; but with the quick intervention of CPR and/or application of a defibrillator machine the survival rate could increase to 60%. His clear message was always to attempt to apply the techniques he showed us, and possibly save a life.

The WI will be holding their annual **Flower and Handicraft Show on June 13th** at Bishopstone village hall. The doors open at **7.p.m.** There will be a raffle, an auction and refreshments will be available. Guests are welcome.

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

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 Jackie Baker (710358) for Ashbury & Idstone or Anne Taylor (07491 035582) for Kingstone Winslow

A message from Rev Patrick Mabunu

After Jesus Christ's ascension to heaven, he sent down the Holy Spirit on to each of his disciples. May that same spirit be poured on to each one of us and be blessed in everything we do. We are already nearly 6 months into the year 2024 and maybe we are getting tired already because of some life situations we might be facing. Be strengthened by the reminder that Jesus Christ will never leave us alone. God loves us all beyond measure.

Thank you all for the good times you spent with Norma and Richard as they ministered among you. May the Lord bless you for all the good you did for them especially allowing them to be part of your lives and community. Thank you for giving them a well deserved send off as they have now gone for retirement. You are a blessed community indeed and we continue praying for you. If there is any help you might need from me, please feel free to contact me and I will happily assist where I can. We are a family together. Stay blessed. From **Revd Patrick**

CHURCH MATTERS: JUNE SERVICES IN ASHBURY, COMPTON, LONGCOT & FERNHAM

WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:

The service times are correct at the time of writing (16 May). 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.

Sunday 2 June	9.30am	Holy Communion	Longcot
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Ashbury
Sunday 9 June	9.00am	Holy Communion	Compton
	9.30am	Morning Prayer	Longcot
	11.00am	Morning Prayer	Ashbury
Thursday 13 June	10.00am	Holy Communion	Ashbury
Sunday 16 June	9.30am	Holy Communion	Longcot
Father's Day	11.00am	Father's Day service	Ashbury
Sunday 23 June	9.30am	Morning Prayer	Longcot
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Ashbury
Sunday 30 June*	10.30am	Benefice Holy Communion with Choir	Watchfield

**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 June- 2nd June Station Road, 9th June The Malthouses, 16th June Walnut Trees Hill, 23rd June Wixes Piece, 30th June Ashbury Hill.

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 Patrick Mabhunu (associatevicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk) or 07471 434276).

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.

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 28th JUNE

If you haven't joined us before why not give it a try? Everyone is 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.

From the archives....

Damp in the headmaster's sitting room

Faringdon Advertiser 10th June 1899

received complaints of a certain nuisance in and near London Street. He was ordered to erect a caution notice.—The attention of Lord Craven's agent was directed to be called to some drains at cottages at Ashbury, which were untrapped.—Mr Beardmore, schoolmaster, of Ashbury, complained that slop-water was thrown on his garden by a neighbour, which made his sitting-room damp. The Inspector was instructed to inform Mr Beardmore that this was a private matter.—The Local Govern-

Country Matters

I counted around thirty hungry red kites and buzzards (mostly kites) circling one big field on the downs as we cleared the grass for silage on May 11th.

We have been catching up on the latest series 3 of Clarkson's Diddly Squat farm on Amazon Prime. The filming must be intense to follow every antic from dawn and well into the night back in 2022. The winter wheats that year were good after a hot, dry summer but rape was poor with late planting and flea beetle damage. Eighteen

months before DEFRA's new environmental support package was announced in detail, I can congratulate Jeremy Clarkson for having the prescience to hatch a new theme that's now topical. He split his 1,000 acre farm in two. Kaleb runs 500 acres producing standard food crops and he runs the other 500 acres relying on environmental subsidies and exploiting the farm's natural capital aimed at selling his branded products in the farm shop. The comparisons are costed on to a white board with Kaleb's Cooper's astronomic fertilizer bill, escalated by the Ukraine war getting him off to worrying start.

Clarkson's fertile brain stumbles through the usual range of disasters and some successes in his attempt to show how clever he is and how difficult farming can be. He experiments harvesting and making nettle soup, making blackberry jams from his bramble patch, harvesting mustard seed to spread on his pork burgers. Mushrooms grown in a WW2 bunker on the farm are more successful but create a marketing challenge, and the second patch falls short because of mould problems.

On the livestock side he gets emotional when his sows farrow and the baby piglets get crushed. He predictably solves the problem by fitting anti-crushing bars to the huts but it's too late for the first batch. A proper pig farmer would have known. Goats are brought in to eat some brambles. So far, they are still youngsters and they come with a warning that they can be escape artists.

Clarkson cannot shake off his Top Gear fetish and indulges in every new, extravagant machine to solve his aspirations, usually with comic outcomes which must be at the behest of filming fantasy to amuse.

The financial bottom line for that year shows declared profits for Kaleb who catches up on good returns from his crop of durum (pasta) wheat making £72,000 and Clarkson's efforts make a £27,000 margin. Cheerful Charlie, the land agent cautions that every bit is needed to finance the next year's output.

It's sometimes a bit silly, but farmers generally applaud Clarkson's brilliant messaging in showing the trials and challenges of farming, casting himself as an earnest rookie searching for a magic formula. A friend's grandson over from his home in Brazil had to visit Diddy Squat on his way back from Heathrow to Highworth via Chipping Norton. You have to applaud this man's power and reach.

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).Vacancy

Associate Vicar:Revd Patrick Mabhunu associate.vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk

07471 434276

Ashbury Village Hall

Chris Millard <mailto:villagehall@ashbury.org.uk>

Secretary Margaret Smith 01793 710800 mbsmith5@hotmail.co.uk

Bookings: Laura 07766 338551 and Steve Pilkington 0773 9692076 mail to:

steve_pilkington@yahoo.co.uk

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

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: 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 [N.B. boundary changes to **Witney** constituency at upcoming election]

Newsletter entries for July 2024. Submit your entries for **July** by **21st June** 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.