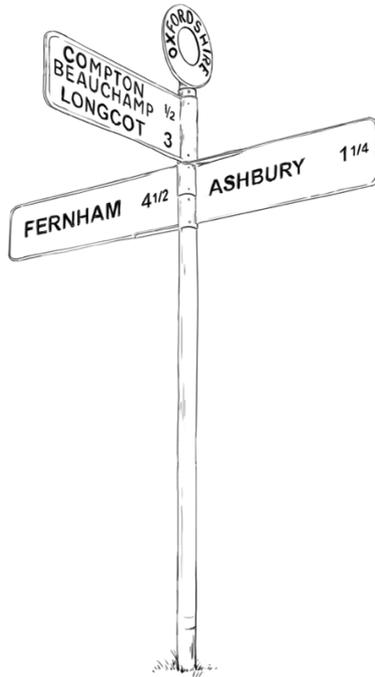


**ASHBURY  
COMPTON LONGCOT FERNHAM  
NEWS  
MAY 2021**



**Longcot Flower Festival 15-23rd May  
Local elections 6<sup>th</sup> May  
Ashbury Doorstep Freecycling**

## Thought for the month

Much has been made over the past few weeks of the late Duke of Edinburgh's life of service – and rightly so. His unwavering support of the Queen, his vision and pragmatism in creating the hugely successful Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme and his unflinching stance on the need to protect the environment, to name but a few. It is also worth remembering at this stage the many other examples of service to be found within our country. We frequently acknowledge members of the armed forces for the service they render in difficult and dangerous operations overseas and, for instance during the current pandemic, the service of the staff in our hospitals, pharmacies, and surgeries with the risks they willingly undertake.

Looking more closely at our own villages, there are many citizens who give freely of their time and energies to worthwhile causes over many years. There are those who raise funds for charities or local churches, those who provide services to our communities such as mowing the village green, ensuring our churchyards are well tended, editing a village magazine, as well as organising food banks and support for the elderly and vulnerable. I came to realise during the pandemic that I have not thanked individuals in my village enough for the service that they give. A socially distanced word of thanks across a garden fence, a brief email of appreciation or a hand-written note of thanks: I have found that they will always be appreciated by the recipient.

In some cases, perhaps we should be more intentional in the way we offer our thanks. Every adult in the country is at liberty to nominate individuals for national honours or awards, such as a BEM or MBE. Inevitably the bar for such awards is high but that should not distract us from submitting worthwhile cases. If you have somebody in mind, why not view the Government website for further information:

<https://www.gov.uk/honours>. Within our county there are a number of other ways we can say thank you, such as nominating someone for a High Sheriff of Oxfordshire Award (well done to Lucy Laird for receiving such an award last month), a Youth of Oxfordshire Award, a Vale of White Horse District Award and many more. Some details of these can be found on the Lord Lieutenant's website (see:

<https://www.oxfordshire-lieutenancy.org/>) and I am always happy to offer further advice on nominating for such awards should anyone be interested. Why not pause for a moment and think about who you could nominate?

**Dennis Blease**

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

## Ashbury News

**Ann Bunce** would like to thank all those, family, friends and neighbours who helped her or sent her cards during her recent stay in hospital.

**St Mary the Virgin Church in Ashbury dates back to the 12th century and is always there if you need it** for baptisms, weddings, funerals or any other time. As Covid restrictions are reduced we hope it will be able to be opened more often as it used to be. In order to keep it looking beautiful we have a small group of volunteers who arrange flowers and keep it clean and polished. Do you have a couple of hours two or three times a year and would like to join our team either arranging flowers or cleaning (or both)? If so please give me a ring – Maggie Simons 710801 – I would love to hear from you.

### **Ashbury Doorstep Freecycling**

**If you have unwanted items, why not join in our new monthly doorstep freecycling event?**

We're trialling the idea and here's how it works...

The **first Sunday** of every month, starting on May 2nd (Bank Holiday weekend)

**10am till 4pm**

**Ashbury, Idstone and Kingstone Winslow**

**Anything you'd like to rehome** including, but not limited to...

Toys, clothes, domestic items, gardening equipment, surplus plant seedlings or cuttings, DIY materials, books... whatever you think could be useful to someone else!

Just pop them on the end of your driveway or path on the **first Sunday** of every month, so that people can have a walk around and see what's up for rehoming.

We all have things we no longer need and they can soon clutter up the house, waiting until we have time to take them to the charity shop or sell them. Your unwanted items could be just what someone else is looking for!

### **CHURCHYARD SPRING-CLEAN 2021**

Thanks to the time and work given by 30 people from across the Ashbury Parish it was possible to carry out our annual community spring clean of the New & Old Churchyards getting them ready for the coming year. We were blessed again with a sunny, dry morning although there was a fairly strong wind. Good gardening weather.

The work included-clearing the footpaths of leaves and grass, getting them back to the path edges, clearing back all the edges of the Churchyards so that all the gravestones can be seen and we can now mow / strim during the summer where practical. Strimming and removing most of the fallen branches and twigs and replanting the area at the bottom of the Church steps. All the growth and weeds from the wall (erected in 1877) adjacent to the footpath have been removed, as has ivy from the trees and from the gravestones

Mowing and strimming the new Churchyard (ongoing during the summer and early autumn)

### **Longcot Flower Festival 15th-23rd May**



**and concerts in St. Mary's Church, Longcot.**

Our 1940's theme with its street party and designs featuring Longcot tales is a bright welcome back to the annual flower festival. The church will be open to visitors from 10-4pm each day. On Saturday 22nd May there will be two short concerts at 3.30pm and 6pm by the Clarinet Collective, a professional clarinet sextet whose performances at St. Mary's have been much enjoyed in recent years. The programme will include arrangements of timeless classics by Mozart, Ravel and Elgar alongside popular music from the twenties, thirties and forties, including Gershwin's famous Rhapsody in Blue, some of Glen Miller's greatest hits and a medley of WW2 melodies. Admission to both events is free, with donations in aid of the Longcot Village Trust fund to convert St. Mary's into a community space. Due to Covid restrictions seats for the concerts will be socially distanced and must be reserved in advance. Please email [victorialmedcalf@gmail.com](mailto:victorialmedcalf@gmail.com) to make a reservation.



## Church Matters

**Normal Services are now resumed! (No services in Fernham)**

### **MAY SERVICES IN ASHBURY, COMPTON & LONGCOT WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:**

**Sunday 2 May** 9.00am Holy Communion (BCP) Compton  
9.30am Morning Prayer Longcot  
11.00am Holy Communion Online Ashbury

**Sunday 9 May** 9.30am Family Communion Longcot  
11.00am Morning Prayer Ashbury

**Thursday 13 May** 10.00am Holy Communion Ashbury

**Sunday 16 May** 9.00am. Matins Compton

11.00am Holy Communion and Celebration of our Baptism by Renewal of Baptismal Vows  
Ashbury 6.00pm Choral evensong Longcot

**Sunday 23 May** 9.30am Morning Prayer Longcot  
11.00am Morning Prayer Online Ashbury

**Sunday 30 May 9.30am** Holy Communion Online Longcot

Our churches are open once a week for private prayer: **Ashbury** 10am – 4pm on  
Thursday **Compton Beauchamp** 9am – 5pm daily **Longcot** 10am – 3pm on Wednesday  
All online services can be watched on the Shrevenham and Ashbury Facebook

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.

### **Ashbury Prayer cycle for May:**

2nd College Farm Lane, 9th Walnut Trees Hill, 16th Wixes Piece, 23rd Ashbury Hill, 30th  
Berrycroft.

### **PASTORAL CARE**

**If you have need for prayer or pastoral support, do not hesitate to ring Canon Paul  
Richardson on 710241.**

**A Message from the Associate Vicar:** In Lancashire, where I served as a Vicar and  
Chaplain for many years May meant the time of crowning the “May Queen” one of the  
teenage girls of the parish. She was chosen to serve for a year and would be **accompanied  
by an** entourage of younger princesses and page boys. In some towns, with a number of  
parishes, the May Queens from all of the parishes would join in the Whit Walk parade,  
with church and Sunday school banners, on the Whit Bank Holiday Monday at the end of  
May. Each May Queen would host a social event for young people, and attend events

organized by neighbouring May Queens, and they would visit local care homes in all their finery bringing great joy to the residents.

Events like these were, and still are in some places, an opportunity to celebrate young people and their contribution to our communities. Far too often it we find that, at best young people are tolerated, and at worst bemoaned or resented. It is not easy growing up in a small village, especially one without good public transport. Young people can feel isolated from friends, find it difficult to access some of the activities they would like to take part in, and can feel cut off from the wider world.

I wonder what the young people of our villages think? Do they feel valued and appreciated as part of our communities, or do they feel put upon or left out? Just wondering....What could we do to celebrate their lives? What might we do to help them realise how much we value them?

### **Covid Precautions at Services**

We are doing our best to ensure that our church is COVID safe for anyone who would like to come to our services. We ask you to observe Covid safety rules, wear a mask, hand-sanitise on arrival (available inside church), sign in or use the NHS QR code and ensure social distancing. Please do not come into church if you think you have symptoms of Covid 19.

### **LONGCOT CHURCHES WORKING TOGETHER – CHAPEL NEW**

#### **TONY MOORE**

Having attended Tony's funeral this morning (22nd April) I feel truly uplifted by a service which celebrated a long and very full life. Ever since Longcot chapel re-opened twenty three years ago Tony has given of his time and talents to ensure the chapel was well cared for with himself and Barbara playing an active role in the services and various activities held there. His loyalty, patience and good humour were much appreciated by everyone associated with the chapel. We give thanks for Tony's strong Christian faith which guided his whole life. We hold Barbara and the family in our thoughts and prayers at this sad time. Thank you for sharing Tony with us and God bless you all

#### **WELCOME PACK FOR NEW RESIDENTS**

**A pack has been prepared 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 Roger Simons (710801) or Margaret Smith (710800).**

**Ambassadors Bible Church (at AEFC)** While the current situation is so fluid please look at our website [www.ambiblechurch.co.uk](http://www.ambiblechurch.co.uk)

## Country Matters

Wonders never cease but I have recently read Rachel Carson's seminal 1961 book *Silent Spring*. It is said that this book helped change the course of history putting it alongside Karl Marx's *Das Capital*, Adam Smith's *The Wealth of Nations*, Charles Darwin's *The Origin of Species*, and in the US Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. *Silent Spring* catalogues some of the grotesque consequences affecting the natural world from applying dangerous pesticides to crops, orchards and forestry in the US during the 1940's and 1950's. My own College years studying agriculture spanned 1961-1964 and this book never appeared on our radar. At that time Seale-Hayne Ag College promoted mixed farming using the growing tool chest of animal medicines, herbicides and pesticides to improve all round performances. In the 50's I can well remember our first crop sprayer arriving on my father's 250 acre mixed farm. At this time he had 40 milking cows and grew 60 acres of corn, 10 acres of potatoes and 10 acres of sugar beet with four men employed and father working hard. It was a 50 gallon yellow Vigzol machine. Our present John Deere sprayer has a 4,400 litre tank (968 gallons) = x 19.4! Troublesome weeds such as charlock, poppy and on our lighter greensand, corn marigold were no longer a big problem.

The book describes the cavalier early use of dangerous chemicals, such as DDT, Chlorinated Hydrocarbons, Organo- Phosphorus compounds and Dieldrin that were used without proper trials and usually at punitive concentrations. Their effects were often disastrous with knock on consequences to the other helpful species in the natural world, resulting in sometimes a worse, not better control. Streams became fishless, gardens and woods became birdless. Blackfly in Ontario became x17 more abundant. In England an enormous outbreak of cabbage aphid followed an organo-phosphorus spray. In Idaho and Montana 140 sq miles of forest was treated with DDT to control budworm but it scorched the Douglas firs and induced swarms of spider mites. There were disastrous treatments to apple orchards. Giving people the choice of food produced without chemicals or artificial fertilizers was a consequence.

60 years on, those destructive chemicals are banned and the best farmers of both persuasions work with nature to be successful. I could be wrong but organic farmers find crop farming more challenging than livestock farming and rely heavily on higher prices to cover lower outputs. Conventional farmers are also exploring reduced pesticides and biological and varietal methods of control to reduce input costs because we are all going to have to manage with less government support in future. Time will tell whether organic grows further or the new buzz word and practice of "responsible regenerative farming" will be the way ahead. If you are still alive as you read this, be reassured that the foods you are now offered, both organic or conventional non- organic are now good and safe.

**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)

**Defibrillator:** On the wall by the School entrance

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

Associate vicar: Paul Richardson 01793 710241 (not Monday or Tuesday)

Church wardens: Maggie Simons 01793 710801 Richard Green 01793 791310

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

Vicar (Shrivenham) Revd Norma Fergusson 01793 784338

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

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

**Newsletter entries for June 2021.** Submit your entries for June by **21<sup>st</sup> May** 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.