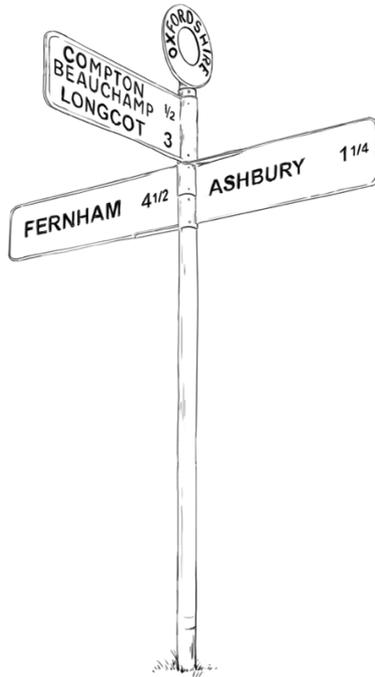


**ASHBURY
COMPTON LONGCOT FERNHAM
NEWS
MAY 2022**



**May 1st Beating the Bounds
Plant and Cake stall for Ukraine appeal 14th
Clarinet Collective 21st Longcot**

**Now is the time to order your lunch for the Jubilee Party
-see inside!**

Thought for the month

As Richard Fergusson suggested in his thought piece last month, it seems virtually inconceivable that we are currently experiencing yet another war in Europe. I feel particularly sad about the situation in Ukraine having previously worked in Kyiv on behalf of the EU's Eastern Partnership arrangements. Ukraine is a young democracy, but I found the people wonderfully open-minded and determined to make a success of their new-found freedoms. Kyiv is also a beautiful city having been completely rebuilt after the ravages of the Second World War. Perhaps its crown jewels are the Orthodox churches and, whilst many of them in Kyiv have survived relatively intact so far, the same cannot be said in other parts of the country where cities like Mariupol and Bucha have been laid to waste with the inevitable human toll.

The only positive side to this humanitarian tragedy has been the response of ordinary people in countries such as Poland and Romania who have welcomed Ukrainian refugees with open arms. As a nation we have also shown enormous generosity both financially and in terms of our time, collecting clothes and consumables, and then transporting them to the Polish-Ukrainian border. It has been a wonderful display of charity in action. And even if we were to set aside our Christian values as reasons for assisting Ukraine, there are also strong realpolitik reasons for doing so. After Putin's interventions in Georgia in 2008, Crimea and the Donbas region in 2014 and now the entirety of Ukraine, where next? Even as I write this article, a senior Russian General has suggested Moldova. Whilst various analysts argue that this is unlikely, the same analysts suggested in mid-February that a Russian incursion into Ukraine was also unlikely. I therefore believe that we must continue to do all in our power and in our own ways to support Ukraine and its people in their time of need.

Whilst it is entirely appropriate that our thoughts are dominated by events in Ukraine, we should not lose sight of events nearer to home, with the celebration of the 70th Anniversary of HM The Queen's Coronation. Villages around the Vale are busy planning the lighting of beacons, organising street lunches and pageants, and the planting of trees. I hope that we will celebrate this amazing anniversary with our usual gusto and verve, but perhaps this year we might also display some Ukrainian flags amongst the Union Jacks?

Dennis Blease, Longcot

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

Ashbury News

Ashbury Community Club

Just a reminder that our meeting on **April 28th** is "Puppy with a Purpose".

Nicola Cornick from Kingston Winslow will be bringing Baden, her guide dog puppy, and will tell us about her work to train him as a Guide Dog for the Blind.

Village Hall. 2.30pm.

Visitors welcome - £2 entrance incl. tea & biscuits.

On **May 26th** we will be going out for lunch.

Further details from Sue Reade, tel. 710208

Plant and Cake Sale for Ukranian Appeal - Saturday 14 May 2.30 pm

Do you have plants in your garden that need dividing, or do you always sow too many seeds and don't know what to do with the spare seedlings? If so, please bring them along to the Village Hall and we will sell them to raise funds for Ukraine. We will also have a cake stall. More details will be available nearer the time but if you would like to help please email Margaret Smith mbsmith5@hotmail.co.uk Thank you.

Beat the Bounds 2022

It's back! Interrupted for two years by the plague, this annual medieval tradition will resume on **May 1st**. We will meet on Sunday May 1st at 8.30am in front of the pub.

N.B. Ashbury Freecycling Sunday 1st May 9am -12 noon

Wednesday 18th May – Second Hand Item Collection. The Friends of Ashbury School have booked a collection with Bag2School for second hand clothes and other items. Our donations will be taken away and a payment will be made to the school based on weight. If anyone in the village would like to support us by donating, then please put your items in black bin bags and leave in front of the school before 9am on Wednesday 18th May. All good quality clothes and accessories accepted (No uniforms) – a full list of acceptable items will be published on the Ashbury Village Facebook page. A huge thank you in advance for your support and generosity.

Thursday 26th May – Barn Dance – Ashbury Manor Barn – 5.30-7.30pm. Dust off your hat and boots and mosey on down for a hoedown in aid of our little village school! Live music from "Life of Riley" and a Licensed Bar. Everyone welcome! Tickets will be on sale from Monday 9th May from Ashbury Shop or online via the Ashbury Village Facebook page – Adults £7.50 / Children £3. (Organised by Friends of Ashbury School, Charity No. 1100425)

**Ashbury Parish Platinum Jubilee Party
on Ashbury Village Green
Sunday 5th June 1200-1700**

**Lunch: Thanks to your donations, all the food can be subsidised
Hog Roast, Pizza and Italian Ice Creams**

Hog Roast* in bun with coleslaw, stuffing and sauces - £3

Quarter Slice of 12" Pizza* – 50p

Scoop of Italian Ice Cream – 50p

***Vegetarian option available**

**HALF THE ABOVE PRICE TO PARISH RESIDENTS IN ADVANCE
ABOVE PRICES ON THE DAY**

**If you live in the parish, please secure your tickets at half price in advance by
contacting:**

ELIZA LEWIS elizalewis8@hotmail.com 710993

or

LIZ DERRINGTON elizabethderrington45@gmail.com 710813

or

ANNE REYNOLDS a2013reynolds@gmail.com 07922 110914

or

PETER SMITH peter.challensmith@tiscali.co.uk 710776

Don't delay!

Be sure to book in advance to secure your food for the party

- **Live Music**
- **Cash Bar**
- **Tea and Cakes**
- **Children's games and crafts**
- **Stalls for coconut shy, rat-down-the-pipe,
hoopla, hook a duck, darts for coins**
 - **Pony rides**

Longcot

Clarinet Collective concert on Saturday 21st May at 6.30 pm in St. Mary's church, Longcot. The Clarinet Collective is delighted to be giving another concert in St. Mary's church, Longcot on Saturday 21st May. The concert will start at 6.30 pm and there will be a bar for drinks from 6 pm. The theme is 'Rose, Leek, Thistle and Shamrock' and the programme will include music from all four parts of the UK, in celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. There will be works by English composers through the ages, from Byrd and Purcell to Vaughan Williams and Elgar, also some twentieth century pieces inspired by Celtic and English folk music. At the other end of the musical spectrum we have some lighter numbers, including 'In Party Mood' by Jack Strachey, which was the ever-popular theme tune for BBC radio's Housewives Choice in the year of the coronation of Elizabeth II.

Entry will be free with a collection after the concert, and places will need to be reserved in advance by email to victorialmedcalf@gmail.com. Now that the conversion of St. Mary's is completed, the profits will go to help the Longcot Village Trust to support future community projects in Longcot.

Oxford Artweeks. Exhibition of stone carvings by former Longcot resident, Emma Ablitt, at 3 Oxford Square, Watchfield SN68TB. Saturday 14th May - Sunday 22nd May from 2-6pm. All welcome.

CHURCH MATTERS May services as follows

Sunday 1 May	9.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Compton
	9.30am	Holy Communion by extension	Longcot
	11.00am	Morning Prayer	Ashbury
	3.00pm	United service	Longcot Chapel
Sunday 8 May	9.30am	Holy Communion	Longcot
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Ashbury
	3.00pm*	Sunday School	Watchfield
Thursday 12 May	10.00am	Holy Communion (Iona)	Ashbury
Sunday 15 May	9.00am	Matins (BCP)	Compton
	9.30am	Morning Prayer	Longcot
	11.00am	Iona Morning Prayer	Ashbury

Sunday 22 May	9.30am	Holy Communion	Longcot
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Ashbury
Thursday 26 May	7.00pm*	Holy Communion + Choir	Shrivenham
Ascension Day			
Friday 27 May	9.00am	Matins	Ashbury
Sunday 29 May	11.00am*		Longcot
Holy Communion & Dedication by Ven. Judy French			

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

Covid Precautions at Services

Please do not come to Church if you have Covid symptoms

All online Morning Prayer, Communion services and sermons can be watched on the Shrivenham 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. Details of online services are on the weekly sheet and on Facebook

Ashbury Prayer cycle for May:-

1st. Pound Piece, 8th Station Road, 15th Malthouse, 22nd Walnut Trees Hill, 29th Wixes Piece.

PASTORAL CARE

If you have need for prayer or pastoral support, or wish to discuss a wedding or baptism, do not hesitate to ring Rev'd Norma Fergusson on 01793 784338. There is also a bereavement group which meets on the last Tuesday of the month; details available from Norma.

LONGCOT CHURCHES WORKING TOGETHER – CHAPEL NEWS

SUNDAY 1st May 3pm - Revd. Norma Fergusson will be leading this month's united service to which everyone is welcome to the service and stay for tea and biscuits afterwards.

FRIDAY 27th May 3pm - T TIME FELLOWSHIP – Why not join us for afternoon tea and the chance to chat and catch up with friends? You will be very welcome and there's no charge although donations to our chosen charity 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.

Country Matters

We have this black working cocker spaniel called Flo. Since marrying, and it's forty-nine years now, we have always had a dog. The first was a springer spaniel called Flop. One of her skills was hunting down cockroaches that scattered when we switched on the lights in the kitchen returning from the pub in our first year at Rectory Farm! The cockroaches are long gone. Then came a border terrier cross called Flick. I ran over her once; I think she was squatting to spend a penny under the landrover wheel but she bounced back after a few days, she was so tough.

Fun next, a golden Labrador which was to be a proper shooting man's dog but despite expensive training she was wayward and was nicknamed Porsche because of her speed. Our last two have been cockers. Preceding Flo was Crumpet, dearly loved by Penny and me, very active and a pretty blue roan. She came with that name but all the four others have started with the letter F!

Cockers are bred to hunt and retrieve but in training they respond better to being bidden rather than any form of coercion. They, perhaps more than any other breed rarely seem to tire, even on a long day. Leaving them alone all day is not good for this breed.

Flo, now ten, does the rounds through the bushes of our garden every morning at our present home Glebe Cottage, Bishopstone. If she starts barking it's a hedgehog and she has found two. Recently she kept returning silently to a lonicera bush and there was a well fleshed youngish, but dead dog fox. Poisoning could have been the reason but I hasten to add not by us. This week in another bush she was again silently immovable with her nose down a small hole and I think the most likely candidate is a rat.

A few neighbours' cats patrol which occasionally causes some excitement. Mostly walled, rabbits have so far escaped us but I have taught her not to chase them and she is also very steady off a lead with sheep.

During the dark days of lockdown both a male and female green woodpecker were viewed close up through our low sitting room window as they dug their formidable beaks into our lawn. The green and red, and contrast in colouring between the sexes was very interesting. They stayed some time before being disturbed by jackdaws. Blackbirds and pigeons dominate but quite often we see a song thrush and some years I can find their nest and lovely blue eggs.

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

Defibrillator: On the wall by the School entrance

St Mary's Ashbury Parochial Church Council

Associate vicar: Vacancy.

Church wardens: Maggie Simons 01793 710801 Richard Green 01793 791310

Secretary: Roger Simons 01793 710801 rogersimons1@outlook.com

Vicar (Shrivenham) Revd Norma Fergusson 01793 784338

rev.n.fergusson@btinternet.com (not Monday)

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>
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: David Johnston

david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk 0207 219 3000

Newsletter entries for June 2022. Submit your entries for June by **21st May** to: M. Turner

Claremont, Ashbury SN6 8LN. marionlturner@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.