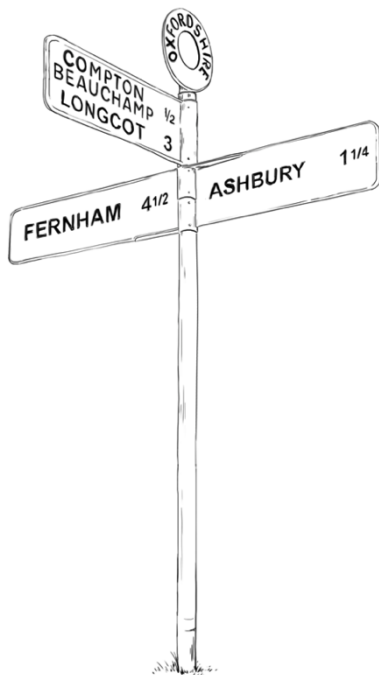


**ASHBURY
COMPTON LONGCOT FERNHAM
NEWS
November 2026**



Community Club 26th Neighbourhood policing

Ashbury St Mary's Christmas Bazaar 28th

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Earlier in the year I visited the National Gallery to view the wonderful Neo - Impressionist exhibition which brought light and colour into an otherwise very wet, windy and gloomy day. Scuttling across Trafalgar Square, I took refuge in the lovely church of St Martin in the Fields. The current church dates from the early 18th Century on a site previously used by the monks of Westminster Abbey, and its mixture of classical and gothic styles has been copied by churches all over the world.

So who was St Martin? Born in AD 316 in what is now modern Hungary, Martin was reluctantly made to join the Roman Army and posted to Amiens in France. Riding through the city on a freezing cold winter's evening, he saw a semi-naked beggar huddling against a wall. Tearing his cape in half with his sword, he wrapped the beggar against the cold and gave him alms. That night he had a dream that Christ came to him as the beggar he had helped, convincing Martin that he should turn away from a military life and work to support the teachings of Christ and assist the poorest in the community. He decided to be a 'Soldier of Christ', founded a monastery near Milan from where it is said he performed many miracles.

St Martin is the patron saint of the Church Lads' and Church Girls' Brigades, and also one of the patron saints of soldiers and those who oppose poverty. St Martin's Day is designated as November 11th, coincidentally the date of the Armistice at the end of World War One. The Cathedral of St Martin in Ypres overlooks the restored town and the infamous battlefield of that war.

Between 1914 and 1918, St Martin in the Fields opened its doors as a refuge for soldiers on their way to and from the trenches of the Western Front. Its walls remember the sacrifice of so many who never returned, but also the tireless work of the Rev'd Dick Sheppard and Vera Brittain (author of *The Testament of Youth*) both leading Anglicans of the pacifist movement in the Twentieth Century.

Today the church community is still very active in providing much needed practical help to those in acute need in London and beyond, working with the Salvation Army and other charities, especially those working to alleviate suffering on our streets, keeping alive the spirit of St Martin. The next time you are in need of a really good meal on a visit to central London, consider the Cafe in the Crypt at St Martin's. All profits go to supporting their outreach work.

Tom Arnold. Fernham.

N.B. ALL CONTRIBUTORS Please remember that next month's issue is for January '27 as well as December. Get your entries in early!!

Ashbury

Ashbury Community Club

Thursday November 26th at 2.30pm in Ashbury Village Hall.

NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

Our local Police Community Support Officer, Alicia Clarke, will introduce the Faringdon Neighbourhood Policing Team and explain how they can be of help to us. There will be a "Have your Say" time for residents to mention any particular concerns which may affect them.

As always, there will be time for chat over tea & biscuits

All welcome (Non-members £2) - further info from **Jackie Baker 01793 710358**.

Ashbury Village Hall.

For your diary, the Village Hall will be hosting the following:

Christmas wreath making - Evening of 11th December or morning of 12th December.

Burns Night - Saturday 23rd January 2027.

CHURCH CHRISTMAS BAZAAR and RAFFLE - Saturday 28 November 2 pm

We will be holding our traditional Christmas Bazaar and Raffle in the Village Hall on Saturday 28th November. We would very much appreciate items for the stalls listed below. Donations can be left at the Village Hall during the morning of the Bazaar (between 9-11 am) or prior to that delivered to the stall holder.

CAKES - Clare McGlashan (01793 710754) and Les Fitchett.

GIFTS - Anything new and unwanted. Maggie Simons (01793 710801) and Julia Blake (07760 238929)

TOMBOLA - Bottles of wine, spirits, soft drink, sauces etc. Carole Crook (01793 952124) and Janet Boden

BOOKS – As new condition, please. Marion Turner (01793 710302)

BRIC A BRAC - Any clean used items but not clothing or electrical, and please no broken or damaged items. Annemieke Steenbergen (07783 370561) and Ian MacKenzie.

CHILDREN'S TOYS - Stewart Smith. Please deliver items to the hall.

RAFFLE PRIZES - Margaret Smith (01793 710800) and Audrey Tilling

Other stalls include:

JIGSAWS and CHILDREN'S GAMES - Diane and Bill Lovegrove
CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS made by Diane Lovegrove and Mary Davies
REFRESHMENTS - Jane Worrall and Nina Tombs
All funds raised will go towards the upkeep of St Mary's Church. Thank you for your support.
For general queries please contact **Margaret Smith (01793 710800)**.

SAVE THE DATE!

FRIDAY 18TH DECEMBER STATIONS OF THE NATIVITY

*Ashbury once again turns into Bethlehem for this year's Stations of the Nativity
Join the shepherds and follow Mary & Joseph
as they search for a place to stay for the night before the birth of baby Jesus.
More details in next month's Newsletter and social media*

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: **news.ashbury@gmail.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

CHURCH MATTERS

NOVEMBER SERVICES IN ASHBURY, COMPTON, LONGCOT AND FERNHAM WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:

The service times are correct at the time of writing (9th October). For the latest news and information please download the weekly Newsletter from our website.

Sunday 1st	9.30 am	Holy Communion	Longcot
All Saints	11.00 am	Holy Communion	Ashbury
Remembrance Sunday			
Sunday 8th	10.50am	War Memorial	Compton
	10.50am	War Memorial +Church	Longcot
	10.50am	War Memorial	Ashbury
	10.50 am	War Memorial	Fernham

Sunday 15th	9.30	Morning Prayer	Longcot
	11.00am	3rd Sunday Service	Ashbury
Sunday 22nd	9.00am	Matins (BCP)	Compton
	9.30 am	Holy Communion (TBC)	Longcot
	11.00am	Holy Communion (TBC)	Ashbury

Sunday 29th *10.30am Benefice Holy Communion with choir Shrivenham

*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 November: 1st Station Road, 8th Malthouse, 15th Walnut Trees Hill, 22nd Wixes Piece, 29th Ashbury Hill.

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 Mabunu (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 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.

Thank you!

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.

From the Newspaper archive 25th November 1911

TRACTION ENGINE IN THE CANAL. — Much excitement was caused in the village on Wednesday afternoon when it was known that a traction engine had crashed through the wooden drawbridge that spans the Berks and Wilts Canal, where it crosses the Ashbury Road. The engine, which belongs to Sir F. W. Carden, of Star Grove, East Woodhaye, was conveying a load of fodder in two trucks from the Home Farm to the Barrington Arms Hotel, Shrivenham, where the owner's horses are being stabled for the hunting season. Proceeding up the Ashbury Road the driver attempted to cross the bridge. The two front wheels landed safely on the other side, but the hinder part of the engine was precipitated into the water. Fortunately the men in charge of the vehicles sustained no injury, but considerable inconvenience is caused by the road being completely blocked to vehicular traffic. The work of extricating the engine by means of a steam crane is in progress.

Country Matters

Farmers have had a wonderful autumn to get ahead and complete their planting schedules and now at last the rain is arriving. Grass has decided to grow again which is helpful for winter grazing but on our farm our cattle will soon be housed. They can be fattened more easily inside and our tracks and fields are not spoilt getting to them in wet weather. We have seen good numbers of hares. The downside is the very unwelcome tyre marks left by cowboys driving over our crops looking for them with their lurchers. The clouded yellow butterfly, a migrant is rare most years and lovely to see but this year's fine weather has turned them into one of the most numerous visitors.

Since Brexit the former EU support for farming has been in steep decline in England. Commodity support still persists in the EU and in the devolved governments of Scotland and Wales to create a very unfair and uneven playing field and market place. Meat imports from Australia and Brazil produced to different standards and eggs imported with a salmonella risk compound home competitiveness.

Our government gave assurances that after leaving the EU that the former support would be transferred here for enhancing environmental projects. Some of these schemes aimed at increasing diversity have completed their term and now need renewing so a new application window in October was eagerly anticipated. We knew the date but not the time when the online portal would open which was to be announced by email giving 15 minutes notice.

With many existing environmental margins, wild bird cover, and nectar areas about to go unfunded, Oliver, our son, was looking online from 4 am. It went live later that morning. He succeeded. So many people have missed out. Even advisors failed. It closed down because applications exceeded the capped threshold early in the day. Screens went blank or refused to progress. Potential applicants are now going to be out of pocket by many £1000's. These nurtured and now unfunded conservation areas might now be destroyed and cropped.

What a way to treat food producers who during a normal day need to be on a tractor or tending livestock and should not be subject to such ultimatums. DEFRA have a poor record in delivery even though there is a civil servant for every five farmers. This is an example of a bloated state created to manage a support system which need not be so complicated. Civil servants are necessary but with their gold-plated pensions, tax payers have to fund them.

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 Mabhunú mail to:

vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk 07471 434276

or Revd Dr Janet Anderson MacKenzie

(associate.vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk)

on 07821 474 711

Ashbury Village Hall

Chris Millard mailto:villagehall@ashbury.org.uk

Secretary Sandra Dagnall 07773 379703 sandrajagnall@gmail.com

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 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 Dec/Jan. Submit your entries by November 25th. 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.