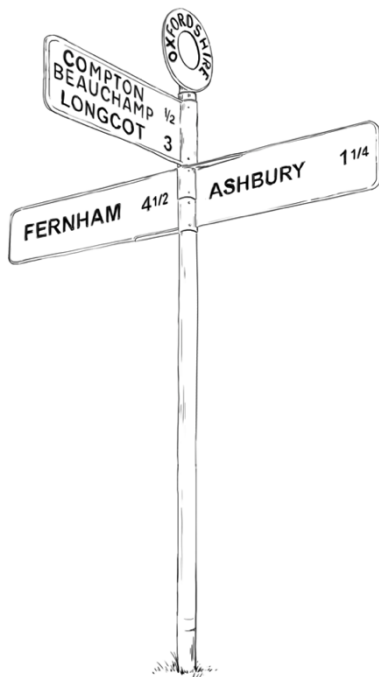


**ASHBURY
COMPTON LONGCOT FERNHAM
NEWS
October 2026**



Badapple Theatre 2nd

St Mary's Ashbury and Longcot Concerts 10th

Ashbury Quiz Night 17th

Community Club 29th

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

What does the phrase “getting lost in a book” mean to you? According to the ubiquitous AI this phrase means “giving a story so much attention that you forget about time and your real-world surroundings”. Psychologists call this state of deep immersion “transportation” and commend it for building attention spans and giving our brains a healthy break from digital noise. I remember as a child growing up in rural Wales (with little or no digital noise!) enjoying books about different places, people and experiences way beyond my immediate surroundings.

The reason this has come to mind is that we are shortly moving away from Ashbury and agreed with our removal firm that we would pack our books, so we have been on a journey of reminiscence which has resulted in over 30 sealed boxes and empty shelves. So much of our lives is now digital and there is less reason to have printed content, but packing the books has brought back so many memories. Children’s books that we have read to our children and grandchildren, travel books that remind us of places we have visited, fiction which we have read and re-read (or sometimes failed to finish, with bookmarks halfway through), and textbooks from what now seems like a bygone age. There are non-fiction and instruction books on hobbies and interests which we have taken up with greater or lesser measures of success, and commemorative volumes from significant events.

One of the things I had not known about Dolly Parton until she died recently was her passion for enabling all children to have access to books and develop a lifelong love of reading, through her establishment of the Imagination Library. This is replayed at local level by initiatives in libraries and the many schemes in schools such as Ashbury to foster a love of reading. And many, both adults and children, enjoy audio books, especially on car journeys. Members of churches in Ashbury bring the Bible to life in delivering Open the Book at our local school in dramatised presentations of Bible stories, which include pupil volunteers. The Bible is an amazing book to become “lost in” as it has everything from adventure to poetry to letters of instruction, as well as the good news of the Gospels.

So although it has been sad and not a little strange to be packing books and preparing to leave such a wonderful community as Ashbury, revisiting books of all descriptions has been a trip down memory lane and a reminder of horizons opened by the written and spoken word. Thank you for sharing my attempts over the past few years!

Isobel Weller

Ashbury

Ashbury Community Club

Thursday October 29th at 2.30pm in the Village Hall. Andrew Bunce will give a talk on "Turner and Constable at 250a look back at the lives and works of, perhaps, two of England's most influential artists."

All are welcome; tea and biscuits will be provided as usual. There is a charge of £2 for non- members. Contact Jackie Baker 01793 710358 for further details .

Indoor Bowls in the Village Hall - this will take place again over the coming winter from this October through to March 2027 from 7.30 pm - 9.00 pm. The cost is £2.50 per head including refreshments and everyone is welcome with coaching available for beginners. It will take place every other Wednesday starting on the 21st October 2026 (excluding 30th December) until 17th March 2027. For more information please contact Pete Smith on peter.challensmith@tiscali.co.uk

Ashbury Village Hall.

Ashbury Village Quiz - 17th October 2026 - If you would like to play but have not yet spoken to your street co-ordinator, please contact Sandra Dagnall at sandrajdnall@gmail.com or call 07773 379703 to organise your place. Doors open from 6.30pm, quiz starts at 7pm. Raffle and bar (cash and card). £12 per ticket with a simple chilli (or veggie alternative) supper included. This is always a fun night getting together with friends and neighbours so please don't miss out.

Ashbury Cinema - The Village Hall Committee has been working on providing cinema events for our community in the village hall. We recently trialled a film showing to a small audience to test the equipment, process and acoustics - it was a really enjoyable evening. We can gain licenced access to a whole range of films - both old and new releases - with a little notice and preparation. If you have any ideas around this, including some good film suggestions, please contact Sandra Dagnall at sandrajdnall@gmail.com.

Choral Music from the movies – Saturday 10th October at 7pm St Mary's Church, Ashbury

Avebury Vocal Ensemble Autumn Concert

The programme is a mix of choral pieces dating from the Baroque period to the twentieth century with highlights including the Allegri "Miserere" and excerpts from the Mozart and Faure Requiems. A choral version of Elgar's "Nimrod" and a couple of popular operatic numbers of Verdi will also feature. The common factor for this

apparent variety show is that every piece has been used as part of the soundtrack to a movie.

Tickets (£12) are available from Maggie Simons (01793 710801), on the door or from AVE's website at <https://www.aveburyvocal.org> In aid of St Mary's Church, Ashbury

Thank you lunch for Graham and Isobel Weller and James Reade

Friends and Colleagues of Graham and Isobel Weller said thank you and good bye to them on Sunday 20th September at a bring and share lunch in Ashbury Village Hall. Graham and Isobel have moved to Northamptonshire to be nearer their family. James Reade was also thanked for playing the organ in St Mary's Ashbury and several other of the benefice churches for fifty years.

The Rev. Patrick Mabhunu presented them with framed prints of a watercolour of the seven churches in the Shrivenham and Ashbury Benefice.



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

CHURCH MATTERS:

**OCTOBER SERVICES 2026 IN ASHBURY, COMPTON, LONGCOT & FERNHAM
WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:**

The service times are correct at the time of writing (4 September). For the latest news and information, please download the weekly Newsletter from our website.

Sunday 4 October	10.30am	Harvest Festival	FERNHAM
HARVEST	11.00am	Holy Communion	Ashbury
Sunday 11 October	9.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Compton **
	9.30am	Holy Communion	Longcot
	(Harvest)		
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Ashbury
Sunday 18 October	9.30am	Morning Prayer	Longcot
	11.00am	Morning Prayer	Ashbury
Sunday 25 October	9.30am	Holy Communion	Longcot
	(with Choir)		
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Ashbury

****St. Swithun’s church Compton is closed for major refurbishment. Communion services will be held in Compton Regis House. Space in the former chapel is very limited so please let Joanna Lambert know in advance if you plan to attend the service: 07990 898 175**

Ashbury prayer cycle for October- 4th October-Kingstone Winslow, 11th October- Malthouse Close, 18th October-Odstone Farm & Cottages, 25th October- Pound Piece.

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 (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.

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.

LONGCOT

Chamber Concert by the Torriano Wind Ensemble on Saturday 10th October at 6 pm in St. Mary's Church, Longcot For this year's Longcot Autumn Concert the Torriano

Wind Ensemble are delighted to be performing two wonderful works for thirteen wind instruments, namely Mozart's Serenade K. 361 and Richard Strauss's Serenade Op. 7. Also in the programme are two movements from Eugene Bozza's Horn Quartet. Admission is free with a retiring collection in aid of St. Mary's Church and the Longcot Village Trust, however all seats should be reserved in advance by contacting: victorialmedcalf@gmail.com The bar will be open at 5.30 pm and at the interval.

Country Matters

On Saturday September 28th farmer Tom Spence from Ashbury is hosting this year's local ploughing match run by the Fairford, Faringdon, Filkins and Burford match committee. He has a good site on the chalk with excellent car access off the B4000 near Ashdown Park on top of the downs. In terms of history the first organised match began after the war in 1948 and I remember attending in the 1960's at Manor Farm, Hatford. The event was cancelled in 2001 (foot and mouth) 2020 (covid 19) and in 2024 (flooded site). Last year on the Barrington Park estate near Burford the soil was so dry that competitors struggled. This year it is again going to be very dry and it will be interesting to see if the friable brown soils over chalk prove more amenable.

Now that we have glyphosate (Roundup) to control weeds and with the cost of diesel and the challenge to reduce carbon emissions caused by ploughing, this skill is in decline. Regenerative farming relies instead on direct drilling with more surface cultivations but ploughing still has a place before root crops and maize, also where dung needs inverting, and on organic farms. These events give a glimpse of former times with demonstrations of ploughing by heavy horses and also of traction engines winching ploughs across fields with heavy wire cables, a practice that was briefly popular between the wars. In the tents there are 31 competition classes under the homecraft section featuring produce, cooking, flowers and photography. Young farmers have creative classes to champion emerging skills and the not so young farmers can compete with this year's harvested grains. A length of hedging on site also gives competitors to show off their hedge laying skills.

There are also the usual main ring displays and many local businesses have a spot to feature their wares. I will be among them to promote my latest book, hot off the press, entitled 29 Remarkable Farmers.

For some hard to divine reason these ploughing matches still capture the interest of rural people who turn up with their families in large numbers for a great day out. The weather looks a fine prospect.

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 Mabhunu mail to:

vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk 07471 434276

or Revd Dr Janet AndersonMacKenzie (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 November 2026. Submit your entries by October 20th. 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.