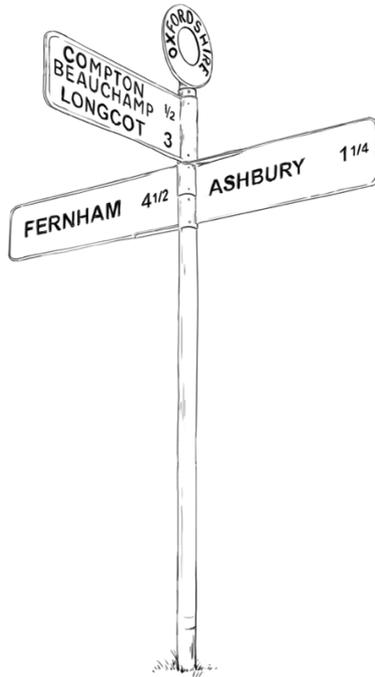


**ASHBURY
COMPTON LONGCOT FERNHAM
NEWS
SEPTEMBER 2021**



**Sunday School new start 26th
Ashbury Parish Council Village Hall meeting 13th
Hall reopens for small event bookings
Stanford tip review -again!**

Thought for the month

Over the last few days I have been pondering the fact that books I read as a child still resonate all these decades later. I know that friends remember the books they read and we are all aware of the influence they have had on our lives. I recently enjoyed a few days staying with a very old friend up in Lincolnshire and during one of our many chats she revealed that her family maxim has always been 'Do as you would be done by' and I responded 'me too'. Do you recall the character of that name in 'The Water Babies'? Obviously we weren't always quoting it as our children were growing up but it was there in our subconscious and I hope we managed to pass it on in our views and attitudes to life in general.

If we all treated others in the way that we would like to be treated society would definitely see some changes. Over recent months we have seen many examples of people of that persuasion – would I want to go hungry? No, so let's do something to help those who are. Have my children/grandchildren all got laptops to enable them to do their school work? Yes, but I can help to make them available to those who haven't. The NHS is short of cash so let's raise funds to help.

The list is endless and I hope that 'can do' attitude persists as life returns to some sort of normality. Many of us can recite the ten commandments but Jesus taught that there is an eleventh -'Love/care for others as much as you love/care for yourself'

If the whole world lived by that maxim 'what a wonderful world it would be'. There would be peace, equality and tolerance because none of us wants to be the victim of aggression or considered as being of less worth than anyone else, or persecuted because we have different beliefs.

Two thousand years ago St Paul defined love in his letter to the church in Corinth and I feel that 1 Corinthians 13:4 is worth re-reading as a gentle reminder from time to time!

Stella Tidmarsh.

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

Ashbury News

Councillors Corner

The Parish Council will be holding our **first meeting of the Autumn in the Village Hall** (if I remember to bring the key this time) at 1800 on Monday 13 September. This newsletter may reach you just in time for you to attend if you wish.

In August we have seen two welcome initiatives. First, James Greenham organised a strimmer blitz on the overgrown path from St Mary's to the Ridgeway. At short notice a full dozen volunteers appeared with their strimmers and temporarily tamed the weeds, to the great benefit and relief of all walkers. Many thanks to them all.

Then on the bank holiday Saturday we organised a pick-up **game of rounders** for all ages in an experiment to encourage the use of the Village Green for informal sports. Depending on the demand we hope to promote other games. Do send us your suggestions.

In September there will be another novelty – an opportunity to have your say about what Ashbury, Idstone and KW should look like in 2050. The Oxfordshire CC have launched a consultation about their Development Plan for 2050 and invited comments from all parties by the end of September. The consultation document is available at <https://meetings.westoxon.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=1575#mgDocuments>

Your Neighbourhood Plan Committee see this as a vital opportunity and want to recruit your and your children's help in framing our response – your children's because they are the future of our community and will inherit the consequences of the decisions made now. What will our public transport and health needs be? Will anyone commute? How will we heat our homes? What type of new housing, if any, should be built and where?

To help inform our community and gather views, we are offering six opportunities to meet members of the Committee to discuss the OCC plan, and how we might respond. **Do please come along to the Village Shop for one of the sessions for at least a few minutes. We will be there between 1000-1200 and 1230-1430 on Tuesday 14th, Thursday 16th and Saturday 18th September. Roll up! This is important.**

Christopher Prentice

PARISH VOLUNTEER

The Parish Council is seeking a volunteer who can help look after the set of village boundary gates and flower-containers at the Idstone Road entrance. The gates will need occasional cleaning and the flower bed will need obvious tending but this shouldn't be too time-consuming. If anyone can assist it would be very appreciated. **Please contact jamesgreenham@btinternet.com for details. Thanks.**

Stanford-in-the-Vale Tip Review

Ashbury Parish Council would like to encourage parishioners to have their say on another cost review of the recycling centre (the tip) at Stanford-in-the-Vale. ***It is important you respond to this consultation if you value its services.***

Oxfordshire County Council has started a consultation process to gather the views of residents, businesses and other organisations using the tip. Have your say by visiting <https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk> and scroll down to 'Let's talk waste and recycling'. **The consultation closes on 17 September so please respond quickly.** The survey takes approximately 10 minutes to complete and by doing so you could save the Stanford tip.

Views are sought on issues including the distance people travel to recycling centres, what materials they take to dispose of, opening hours, permits, booking systems and vehicle restrictions. Comments and suggestions are also welcome.

ASHBURY VILLAGE HALL

We are now able to accept bookings for small events, classes etc, but for the time being would ask you still to be cautious - keep social distance and use masks where possible, use the hand sanitiser, leave the doors open, etc. Please contact Lin Clarke 710326 to book the hall or for more information.

Village Hall update

You may have noticed that scaffolding has recently been erected on the front of the hall. This is so that we can carry out repairs to the stone face of the hall over the coming weeks. We are pleased to say that we are able to fund this work by a generous grant received from Crappers under the landfill grant scheme.

ACRYLIC WORKSHOP, Saturday 4 September, in Ashbury Village Hall
 Sheryll Fox is holding this workshop from 10 am to 3.30 pm, at a cost of £35 per person plus £5 for materials, or you can bring your own. Also, bring a packed lunch for a short lunch break, with tea, coffee, squash and biscuits provided.
 Numbers will be limited, covid safety measures in place but it will be fantastic to get real time feedback and chat!

In this lesson you will:

- Choose and mix colours
- Loosen up and create interesting backgrounds with acrylic paint
- Sketch with a free approach
- Create your own unique painting
- Work with a subject matter that inspires you
- Discover new skills, gain knowledge and experience
- Get individual feedback and group support

You can enrol now via www.skfoxart.com/art-classes (in person) or contact Maggie Simons 710801 for more information.

GARDEN SAFARI SUPPER

This popular village event will be held again this year on Saturday 4th September but this time (weather permitting) in the garden. A superb 3 course home cooked meal including wine for only £17.50. Each course hosted in a different garden in Ashbury or Kingston Winslow. Diners will not know the location of their courses or the identity of their fellow diners, until the day of the event when their secret envelopes are opened - it's great fun and a fantastic opportunity to meet new and old friends whilst exploring the neighbourhood. (Should the weather prove difficult, we will move indoors) All proceeds to St Mary's, Ashbury.

If you would like to attend, or would like to host a course in your garden, please email Judy Clarke (judithannclarke@outlook.com<<mailto:judithannclarke@outlook.com>>) or call 710305.

CHURCH MATTERS

(No services in Longcot- closed for building work)

Sunday 5 September	9.00am	Holy Communion	Compton
	9.30am	Family Service	Fernham
	11.00am	Morning Prayer	Ashbury
Sunday 8 August	9.30am	Holy Communion	Fernham

Thursday 9 September	10.00am	Holy Communion	Ashbury
Sunday 12 September	9.30am	Holy Communion	Fernham
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Ashbury (also online)
Sunday 19 September	9.00am	Matins	Compton
	9.30am	Morning Prayer	Fernham
	11.00am	Celtic Morning Prayer	Ashbury
Sunday 26 September	9.30am	Holy Communion	Fernham
	11.00am	Harvest Festival with Communion	Ashbury
	3.00pm	Sunday School	Ashbury

Covid Precautions at Services

We are doing our best to ensure that our church remains COVID safe for anyone who would like to come to our services. We request you continue to observe Covid safety rules, wear a mask, hand-sanitise on arrival (available inside church), sign in or use the NHS QR code. We are now singing hymns again but would request you wear a mask or sit a safe distance apart – there is plenty of room to do this. Please respect the concerns of others in the congregation.

Please do not come into church if you think you have symptoms of Covid 19.

Our churches are now open

All online services 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.

Ashbury Prayer cycle for September:-

5th The Malhouses, 12th Walnut Trees Hill, 19th Wixes Piece, 26th Ashbury Hill

PASTORAL CARE

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

LONGCOT CHURCHES WORKING TOGETHER – CHAPEL NEWS

SUNDAY 5th Sept. 3pm – Everyone is welcome to our monthly ecumenical service which will be led by Revd. Norma Fergusson. Tea and biscuits will be served after the service.

FRIDAY 25th Sept. 3pm - Come and join us for a chat over afternoon tea, everyone is welcome.

There is no charge but donations to our chosen charity are always welcome. **Stella**

PAUL'S MESSAGE

Hello Again,

In the year 1777 the local Curate, Revd Thomas Stock, opened the first Sunday School in England at St Mary's Church in Ashbury. He moved to become a vicar in Gloucester and there together with Robert Raikes, promoted Sunday Schools across the county. These were to become the foundation of the national school system bringing literacy and numeracy to the children of workers in town and country. Church Sunday schools continued to bring religious teaching to many children and families for generations to come. Here, again in Ashbury, we are starting Sunday School, beginning at the end of September. All are very welcome to come and try it out.

Yours, Paul

Sunday Afternoon Sunday School begins 26th September: 3.00pm at St Mary's Church Ashbury.- Sunday School and "Come and See with Cake and Tea" family service.

Helping your child learn more about loving God and our neighbours, about Jesus, the Bible and the life of the Church. Helping you to give them a good direction in their lives. Bring them along to Sunday school, and "Come and see with Cake and Tea" to celebrate all they have done!

The Church of England parishes of the Shrivenham and Ashbury Benefice start a new Sunday School on Sunday 26th September at St Mary's Church Ashbury. We welcome children aged 4-11 years of age to take part. Our Sunday School leaders and helpers will be DBS cleared and have safeguarding training.

Drop your child off for a 3.00pm start and then at 4.15pm come and see what they have been doing and have a cuppa and cake as we celebrate their work with a short family service, heading back home around 4.30pm. Any parent/s who wish to stay for the whole time are very welcome to do so.

The venue for the Sunday School will change each week as we move around the churches of the benefice from Ashbury, to Watchfield, Longcot and Fernham, and Shrivenham, but each week we start at 3.00pm and finish by 4.30pm.

Sep: 5th Training Session for Leaders/Helpers 3.00pm
26th Ashbury (With a Harvest Theme)

Oct: 3rd Watchfield, 10th Shrivenham, 17th Fernham, 24th Ashbury, 31st Venue
tbc.

No need to book in advance, you can register your child when you turn up, but if you would like to register now, please contact our Benefice Administrator who can send you a registration form. info@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk

Further information from Revd Canon Paul Richardson, Associate Vicar. 01793 710241 or associate.vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk

NEW RESIDENTS TO ASHBURY, IDSTONE & KINGSTONE WINSLOW

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).



Country Matters

What's the world coming to when the pasture weed ragwort wins prizes! With other weeds in a contrived border it has just won a coveted RHS gold medal at a Tatton Flower Show in Derbyshire?

No matter that back in the days when farmers were actually encouraged and paid for growing food there was legislation called the Injurious Weed Act 1959 and the Minister of Agriculture could require landowners and farmers to control ragwort, docks and thistles.

In theory he still can except that this responsibility would fall to the Minister for Environment now and that seems unlikely. The yellow devil is poisonous for cows and horses but seen to be good for pollinators. The other woke message is to do away with the traditional striped pattern effect of a perfect mown lawn. It's now trendier to do your bit for wilding and leave it "au natural" for a bit.

This all seemed very relevant to Penny, my wife who is a keen gardener when she came in after a session cutting back which seems a necessary chore after flowering, with a good many insect bites that swell and itch. She reasonably can point to the wide variety of other flowers and shrubs in our garden that can keep the bees and insects happy without an abandoned lawn. Even so it was in need of a mow when we recently were away and guess what? Our eight year old granddaughter scampering about without shoes got stung by a bee on the clover! She made no fuss.

The garden supports other creatures. Butterflies love the buddleia bush, especially commas. We have seen a fox earlier this year, casual as you like. On the phone landline next to a low window overlooking the garden, first one green woodpecker arrived and then its mate arrived only a yard or two away from where I was sitting. Close up they are especially beautiful. Then we have our hedgehogs.

After moving two away to a garden by the mill stream in Bishopstone last year we now have another resident to be worried by my spaniel so I will probably have to move that on too. A toad appeared in the rhubarb. Song thrushes can come to crack snails and readers might remember that some years ago we had a bumble bee nest dug out by a badger that must have smelled them and entered from the road through a hedge because the garden is mostly walled.

Also we have too many pigeons, so much so that because of their poo on the patio their roost in the grand laburnum has had to have a severe haircut, removing the overhang. The next job will be clearing the fallen pears to the Royal Oak to make perry juice for their breakfasts. Full marks if you can beat that.

rwgreen42@gmail.com

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: 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

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 October 2021. Submit your entries for October by **20th September**

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.