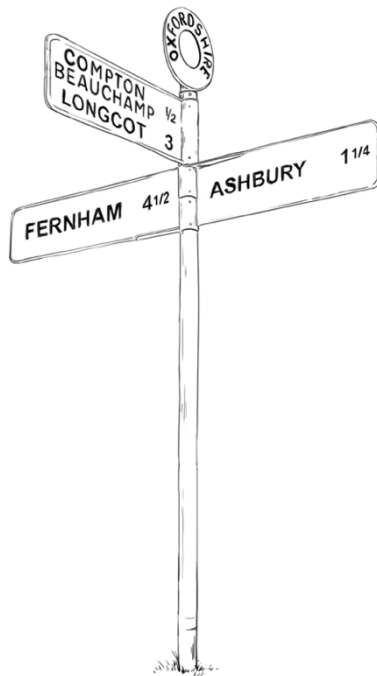


**ASHBURY  
COMPTON LONGCOT FERNHAM  
NEWS  
JULY 2024**



**General Election 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Community Club 25<sup>th</sup>-a talk on 'the Hub':  
Sustainable Shrivenham**

**Ashbury Walking Group 21<sup>st</sup>**

## THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Last April I was delighted to be invited to the Wantage Mayor's 'Big Thank You' in Wantage Parish Church. It was billed as an opportunity to celebrate acts of kindness in the local community, both great and small. The public were invited to write 'thank you' messages on tags and tie them to a 'tree of thanks' that was located inside the church.

At the start of the afternoon there were just a few messages but by the end of day the tree was festooned with joyful notes. By the tree there were some display boards that featured pictures that had been drawn by local primary schoolchildren. These expressed thanks in creative ways that only children can manage to show gratitude to their mums, dads, siblings and even their teachers!

The Mayor had also arranged for her special charities (the Letcombe Brook Project, Team Mikayla and Riding for the Disabled) to be present and talk about their charitable efforts. It was an opportunity to hear about the wonderful work they do for the community. Donations were also invited from those who attended the event and the proceeds were split between the three charities.

At the end of the afternoon there was a short service that included singing from the Wantage Glee Club that would have been welcomed in any Oxford concert hall. It was a truly memorable and uplifting experience.

And reflecting upon the theme of thanks, whilst our small Benefice might not be able to compete with the scale and breadth of the Wantage event, it was still enormously heartening to see and take part in the various farewells to the Revd Norma and Richard Fergusson when they retired in May. Quite rightly we wanted to wish them well for the future, but we also wanted to say a huge 'thank you' to them both for the ten years that they had devoted to our congregations, churches and the wider community.

Much of their work had been conducted quietly and out of sight but its impact has been immense. And that was why my message of thanks on the Wantage tree in April was to Norma and Richard.

**Dennis Blease**

## Ashbury

### **Rainbow Concert**

Thank you to everyone who supported our Rainbow Concert in church on 22nd June - the choirs, the helpers and all those who came or gave donations. With donations, and a lot of generosity from Holly at the Rose and Crown we raised an amazing £540.00! This sum will be added to the money raised at our Bring and Buy and Coffee Morning earlier this year. We are now just over £200 short of our target of £1340 needed to get an expert to clean our Stained Glass windows in St Mary's Church.

### **Maggie Simons**

### **Ashbury Community Club**

Thursday 25th July, 2.30pm, Village Hall

A member of Sustainable Shrevenham will explain how The Hub in the High Street is used to recycle, re-use, reduce, refill or repair a large number of household items, preventing them from going into land-fill.

The shop is also a great place to find gifts, books, craft items, etc. while helping our environment.

As usual, meetings are open to all for just £2 which includes tea & biscuits

No need to book but for further info you may contact [sue\\_reade@btinternet.com](mailto:sue_reade@btinternet.com) or tel. 01793 710208

### **Ashbury Walking Group**

Do you enjoy walks in the countryside in the company of friendly people? If so join us for our **Sunday** afternoon walks which take place on the 3rd Sunday of each month.

We meet at 2pm at the bus stop near the pub in the centre of the village and walk approx. 5 miles on local footpaths around Ashbury, finishing between 4pm and 5pm. It's an informal group, and dogs are welcome. For more information contact Sue

Reade 710208 / [sue\\_reade@btinternet.com](mailto:sue_reade@btinternet.com)

This month's walk will be on 21<sup>st</sup> July.

**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](mailto: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**

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

*The service times are correct at the time of writing (22 June). For the latest news and information, please download the weekly Newsletter from our website.*

*The churches in Ashbury, Longcot and Compton Beauchamp are also open daily for private prayer.*

<b>Sunday 7 July</b>	9.30am	Holy Communion	Longcot
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Ashbury
<b>Thursday 11 July</b>	10.00am	Holy Communion	Ashbury
<b>Sunday 14 July</b>	9.00am	Holy Communion(BCP)Compton St. Swithin's Day	
	9.30am	Morning Prayer	Longcot
<b>Sunday 21 July</b>	9.30am	Holy Communion	Longcot
	11.00am	Morning Service	Ashbury
<b>Sunday 28 July*</b>	10.30am	Benefice Holy Communion with Choir	Ashbury

*\*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 June-** 7<sup>th</sup> July- Berrycroft, 14<sup>th</sup> July- Berrycroft Lane, 21<sup>st</sup> Chapel Lane, 28<sup>th</sup> July- Church Lane.

**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.

***A message from Rev Patrick Mabunu***

As summer is now here and we are enjoying some sunny days and friendly weather, may the grace of the Lord be upon us all and his radiance lead and guide us. It is with great joy, open arms and heart that we welcome Greg in our village and thank God for bringing him to us at this right moment. May his ministry and stay be a blessing to all of us.

**Patrick**

**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 ([associatevicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk](mailto:associatevicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk)) or 07471 434276).

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.

**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.**

## LONGCOT

### TIME FELLOWSHIP 2.30pm FRIDAY 30th JULY

Everyone is welcome to join us for tea and cake in St Mary's Parish Church, Longcot, whereby you can be sure of a warm welcome. There is no charge but donations to our chosen charity are always welcome. Why not give it a try?

**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 archive

**ASHBURY, BERKS.**

**To Blacksmiths, Coopers, Drapers & others.**

**MR. J. DYKE**

**H**AS received instructions to **SELL** by **AUCTION**, on the premises, at Ashbury, on Thursday, the 4th of August, 1859, at 11 for 12 o'clock, the whole of the **STOCK-IN-TRADE, FURNITURE, and Effects of Mr. JOHN GODDARD,** under an Assignment for the benefit of creditors.

Particulars next week.

25<sup>th</sup> July 1859

### Country Matters

It's both been election time and orchid time. Both will be nearly over by the time you read this! Orchids are such unpredictable plants. On the farm there have been fewer than usual. Russley down is our best site and there I have only counted thirty scented orchids and not one burnt tip this year. The latter are quite rare. Above Odstone farm

I counted ten bee orchids. There is always a good show of common spotted and pyramidals up the Eastbrook valley. I have also been shown a Lizard orchid and early marsh orchids on Lydia Otter's Pennyhooks farm at Shrivenham. The large lizard orchid is a beast at up to a metre in height. From an early base in Kent Lizards seems to have spread in the last fifty years across the south but formerly I had only ever seen examples in France.

Pennyhooks farm, 100 acres was bought by Lydia's grandparents who came there from Yorkshire in 1955. It's a pretty farm with a glacial valley and river meadows where an otter has been captured on camera. Up to 1970, her father and uncle milked there up to 100 Ayrshire cows, then beef followed. Leaving school Lydia taught children with learning difficulties for Oxfordshire C.C. and arranged a few visits with classes to the farm that seemed to capture their imagination and benefit these children. From 2001 and a mobile home to start with she has taken in and helped autistic school leavers from seventeen to forty years. She has been supported by the Baily Thomas Trust, Natural England and diversification grants, also grants to convert to organic and private donations to develop her facilities.

When her father died the farmhouse was sold and with charitable help Appletree house was built in 2005 as a learning centre. She created the Pennyhooks Trust in 2011. Hedgerow house and Otter house followed in 2012 and 2014. There is now a large workshop to develop multiple skills, such as cooking, woodwork, drawing and painting. There is a large greenhouse to develop skills in growing plants. The farm has goats, donkeys, and 35 Angus cows. Students grow their confidence and well-being contributing to animal care, conservation, horticulture, woodwork, crafts and home skills.

With her team she now takes in 35-40 young adults each day and the ethos is "the farm cares for the students and the students care for the farm". On the farm they help with weed control, fencing, mucking out stock, making willow hurdles and other useful items all under the direction of the farm manager and learning centre manager. Local Authority and private funding now generate ten times the pure agricultural fee output but both are complimentary. Lydia received the MBE from William, Prince of Wales at Windsor Castle recently. When she retires, she plans to hand over this asset to the Pennyhooks Trust to keep this vital help going for autistic young people. There is a desire from parents for the trust to offer a residential provision. She has planning consent to convert an existing shed so that is her latest of many projects that she has always delivered.

**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)

**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).Vacancy

Associate Vicar:Revd Patrick Mabhunu [associate.vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk](mailto:associate.vicar@shrivenhamandashbury.co.uk)

07471 434276

### **Ashbury Village Hall**

Chris Millard <mailto:villagehall@ashbury.org.uk>

Secretary Margaret Smith 01793 710800 [mbsmith5@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mbsmith5@hotmail.co.uk)

Bookings: Laura 07766 338551 and Steve Pilkington 0773 9692076 [mail to:](mailto:steve_pilkington@yahoo.co.uk)

[steve\\_pilkington@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:steve_pilkington@yahoo.co.uk)

### **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**

**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:** Katherine Foxhall 07916 285305

[katherine.foxhall@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:katherine.foxhall@whitehorsedc.gov.uk) and Viral Patel [viral.patel@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:viral.patel@whitehorsedc.gov.uk)

**County Councillor:** Yvonne Constance: 01235 751475/07976934884

[yvonne.constance@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:yvonne.constance@oxfordshire.gov.uk) [currently unwell]

**M.P. for the Witney constituency:** Unknown at the time of going to press.

**Newsletter entries for August 2024.** Submit your entries for **August** by **24<sup>th</sup> July** to: M.

Turner Claremont, Ashbury SN6 8LN. [marionturner@me.com](mailto:marionturner@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.