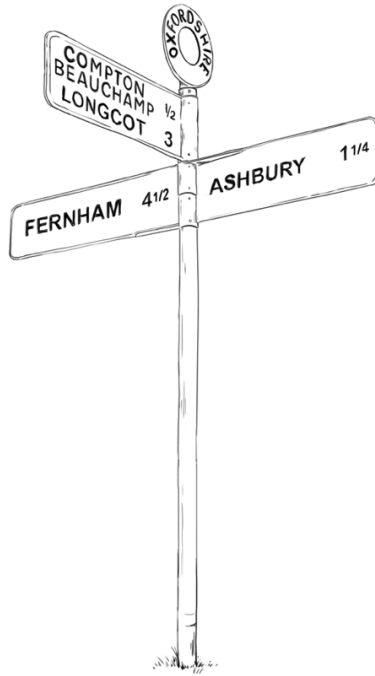


**ASHBURY  
COMPTON LONGCOT FERNHAM  
NEWS  
FEBRUARY 2022**



**Jubilee planning meeting 7<sup>th</sup> all invited  
Pennyhooks Farm on T.V. 16<sup>th</sup>  
Virtual wine tasting 18<sup>th</sup>  
Ashbury Community Club 24<sup>th</sup>**

## Thought for the month

A reflection on the importance of memories.

I recently came across a quotation which set me thinking - 'The best way to suppose what may come is to remember what is past'. When facing challenges today, delving into the past and discovering how we or our forbears coped in similar circumstances can be very helpful but what must it be like to have no idea of who you are or where you come from, no memories to rely on? Judging by the number of books and films featuring a character with amnesia, authors and playwrights obviously find the idea fascinating but when it's for real how lost one must feel.

Memories are so important, they help us learn what can cause us physical harm or makes us unhappy or afraid; we also learn about goodness, love, what makes us feel happy, secure and comfortable. From birth, everything we see, hear and experience as we go through life is recorded in our memory which I think of as being like a computer, if there's something you want to remember and can't, it will eventually surface – your personal 'search engine' has come up trumps!

Obviously there are unhappy memories but the happy ones are the most useful as they help us to counteract the unhappy ones. After my first husband died I developed a strategy for dealing with the 'bad' days when they hit. If sadness threatened to overwhelm me I would deliberately summon up the memory of a happy time we had shared and give thanks for it. The same trick proved equally valuable years later when I was widowed for the second time. We all need to ensure that our good memories are safely stored ready to be accessed as and when we need them. Sharing good memories is important too, family gatherings or meeting up with old friends usually results in recalling people, places and events we all once knew and can help to ease the sense of loss, pain and sadness for everyone there.

Paintings, photos, letters and diaries are some of the things that can help us recall memories and we even have instructions in the Bible. In his letter to the Philippians St. Paul advises - 'Fix your thoughts on what is true and good and right. Think about things that are pure and lovely and dwell on the fine, good things in others'. (Phil. 4: 8-9)

**Stella Tidmars**

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

## **Ashbury News**

### **Ashbury Community Club**

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 24th February

2.30 pm Ashbury Village Hall

Susan & Adrian Dent from Bishopstone will talk to us about "RAKU POTTERY"

Everyone welcome - no need to book - just turn up

Entrance £2 includes tea & biscuits

[The January 27th meeting has been postponed for Covid reasons, so the nostalgic trip back to the Seventies has been rearranged for Thursday 31st March.]

### **How should we all celebrate the Platinum Jubilee on 5 June?**

Please help the parish to celebrate HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a street party or parties on Sunday 5 June.

On behalf of the Ashbury Parish Council and the Village Hall Committee, we invite you to a planning meeting at the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Monday 7 February. Everyone welcome. Please come with your ideas on how we can best mark the Jubilee with the rest of the country. There will be a glass of wine with which to toast HM!

**Christopher Prentice   Maggie Simons**

### **Village hall: Repairs to the external walls.**

As you will be only too aware repairs have been underway to the village hall external walls. It had been hoped that this would be completed before the winter but various factors such as Covid, inclement weather and workforce illness have slowed progress. Over the years the seriously decayed chalk facing has been repaired with patches of inappropriate cement rich render of various compositions and colours. Some of these had failed to the extent that they were giving serious safety concerns so the decision was taken to carry out comprehensive repairs starting with the elevation facing Chapel Lane and progressing around the sides as far as the grant money would allow.

The repairs take three forms - complete renewal of the stone, refacing of less deteriorated stones and re-pointing. To get the best match possible the new stone has been sourced from a local pit and, to avoid the noise and dust involved in the cutting process, the extracted boulders were taken to the stone mason's yard for processing. Replacing the damaged stone is a painstaking process but the area which needed wholesale renewal has been completed. The remaining areas will require the occasional stone to be replaced but involves mainly lime mortar repairs and re-pointing. Tests have been carried out and a suitable mortar mix selected for the stone refacing.

With winter upon us, and not knowing how severe this would be, the decision was taken to suspend operations until the spring and to dismantle the scaffold which also provides the opportunity to re-evaluate the project and assess how the new chalk will mature.

**Roger Baker**

Ashbury Village Hall Committee

### **Virtual wine tasting – a taste of South Africa**

Join us on Friday 18th February at 8pm via Zoom for an evening enjoying the wines of South Africa with wine expert and educator Abbie Bennington.

South Africa is home to some of the best value and highest quality wines of any region in the world. However, Covid 19 with its strict lockdowns and ban on alcohol sales has left its wine industry – and many of the people it employs – facing a crisis. In this tasting we will take a look at the best value and quality wines of a nation that has a proud and distinguished wine making history, and make our own small contribution towards boosting their wine sales.

Tickets are £10 per household, any surplus in aid of St Mary's Church.

(You'll also need to purchase two bottles of wine from Sainsburys – we can help with delivery if anyone would struggle to get there).

Book your place by emailing [claireroutley@btinternet.com](mailto:claireroutley@btinternet.com)

### **Watercolour Classes in the Village Hall** Saturdays 5th February and 5th March 9.30 – 12.30

Feb 5th: refreshing knowledge and techniques, using a limited palette of only three colours to paint a scene with winter trees and possibly snow (especially if we have some!)

March 5th: painting daffodils in the landscape, creating movement and capturing their beautiful colours

The cost of each workshop will be £12 per session, per person. We are limited to 12 people due to the Covid situation and BOTH DATES ARE NOW FULL. If you are interested in being on a reserve list please contact Hilary direct

on [hilary.sinclair@me.com](mailto:hilary.sinclair@me.com)

There is also a possibility of a future short course for complete beginners in watercolour (or those who are interested in going back to basics. Again, please contact Hilary directly if you would be interested or have any questions.

On behalf of the Ashbury Parish Council, I send you all (belated) best wishes for the New Year. I hope that 2022 has started well for you. The Council has already held our first meeting of the year and covered some important issues, including setting the budget for the next financial year and so deciding how much we need to ask for from the Vale of the White Horse as our precept for 2022-23. (The precept is an allocation to Parish Councils drawn from everyone's Council Tax payments.) Last year, at the height of the Covid crisis, we felt it right to keep the precept unchanged. This year we have decided that there are certain investments in the Parish which can no longer be put off.

The **bus shelter** in Ashbury is in a very decrepit state and needs to be replaced. The cost of this is beyond any one year's budget so we have started to build up a fund, which should allow us to replace it within the next five years.

The **parish website** is also in urgent need of modernisation. A group of Councillors and others is working on this and we hope that the results of their work will be apparent soon. However, they may need some additional professional advice. So we have made an allocation in the budget for the group to draw on.

The bottom line for everyone, if the VOWH accepts our bid, is that there will be an increase in the Council Tax for a Band D residence in the parish next year of about £12. That is not good news but this increase will support these additional projects, as well as our regular expenditures on your behalf.

Last Autumn the Council led a major effort to raise awareness across the parish of the planning application which had been lodged with the VoWH for a 5G mast to be erected on the verge of the road opposite the Ashbury Shop. This led to over 90 residents registering their views on the Vale's planning portal and over forty residents signed a petition; all in addition to the formal response to the application from the Council, led by our Neighbourhood Planning Group. As many of you may know, the application for a mast on that site was rejected. This was a significant victory for grassroots opinion.

There is, however, a wider issue which will be increasingly important for us all and that is the future of the telecomms and IT provision in the parish. We discussed this at our meeting this month. From 2024 BT plan to withdraw all landlines. There is a real interest for the parish to have adequate superfast broadband and 5G access. Through the excellent initiative of Pauline Smith, who has taken over the lead of the

Neighbourhood Planning Group, and of Peter Cowx on the Council, we are in discussion with the VoWH and the Oxfordshire Council to improve their communications with the public on these issues; and we hope to put together a group in the parish to gather information and spread the word about the sometimes confusing options which are or will be available. Please do come forward if you would like to join this group. [See below p 7]

Many of you will have noticed the new railings along the Idstone Road, just as you leave Ashbury. What an improvement on the old metal railings which had become an eyesore and not fit for purpose! I should record here our thanks to James Greenham for this result. Over many months of patient engagement with the Highways authorities, he first persuaded them of the need and then got them to allocate a budget and schedule the work. A real case of persistence rewarded with significant benefit to the community. Well done, James!

**Lydia Otter the CEO of the Trust which works with young people with autism at Pennyhooks Farm) has sent us this:**

**Pennyhooks on BBC 1 Soon - A Half hour Documentary**

The programme is called 'A Farm Like No Other' & has been produced by the 'We are England' Team, headed by Ben Moore

It is being screened on Feb 16th at 7. 30 pm ( NB this is a different date to the one originally circulated )

It is on BBC South East & also BBC i player

It is part of a series of current affairs programmes on topics like Farming, Manufacturing, Mental Health & Crime, filmed 'from the ground up'

We were asked to represent Diversification in Farming.

The team spent 7 days filming with us in December. This included visits to IV florists & Blacklands Organics, to film the students, as they took their willow wreaths & eggs to Sue & Jamie to sell at the shops.

The Producer seemed to understand well, the purpose of Pennyhooks, & we are hopeful of a clear, interesting & supportive programme. It will show our Winter daily life at the Farm, including the Tuesday Storm, the TB testing the cattle (when the bull made a brief bid for freedom...!) & also some nice sunny drone shots of the Farm & Village as well as our young people out at work with the animals.

## Ashbury Parish website

A small group of volunteers have started to improve the Website with the aim of bringing it up-to-date and making it easier to access news, information, forthcoming events, booking facilities, council activities, etc. We would welcome help from other volunteers in the following areas:

someone with IT knowledge of Websites or similar to help with the site restructuring and uploading information in future

help/advice from people that have previously been involved with the Website to determine who has been/is responsible for the various sections. We want to determine what information is current and useful, and what can be archived in order to unclutter and streamline the website

suggestions about what else could be usefully included/modified on the website.

Please contact **Peter Cowx** if you are willing to help with this interesting challenge.

website-officer@ashbury.org.uk home tel: 01793710251

## CHURCH MATTERS

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

<b>Sunday 6 February</b>	9.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Compton
	9.30am	Family service	Longcot
	11.00am	Morning Prayer	Ashbury
	3.00pm	United service	Longcot Chapel

<b>Thursday 10 February</b>	10.00am	Holy Communion:	Ashbury
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<b>Sunday 13 February</b>	9.30am	Holy Communion	Longcot
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Ashbury
	3.00pm	Sunday School	Watchfield

<b>Sunday 20 February</b>	9.00am	Matins (BCP)	Compton
	9.30am	Morning Prayer:	Longcot
	11.00am	Taizé Service	Ashbury

<b>Friday 25 February</b>	9.00am	Morning Prayer	Ashbury
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<b>Sunday 27 February</b>	10.15am	Benefice Holy Communion	
		Service	Shrivenham

## **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. Wearing a face covering is mandatory. Please do not come into church if you think you may have symptoms of Covid 19. Please sign in or use the NHS QR code and continue to observe social distancing – there is plenty of room to do this. Please respect the concerns of others in the congregation. Hand sanitizer is available.

## **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 February**

6<sup>th</sup> Berrycroft, 13<sup>th</sup> Berrycroft Lane, 20<sup>th</sup> Chapel Lane, 27<sup>th</sup> Church Lane.

## **PASTORAL CARE**

If you have need for prayer or pastoral support, do not hesitate to ring Rev'd Norma Fergusson on 01793 784338. Please note Rev'd Canon Richardson has moved to Tickhill in South Yorkshire to take up another post (see previous newsletters)

**SHRIVENHAM CLOTHING EXCHANGE.** At St Andrew's church on Saturday 12 February (and every second Saturday of the month) from 9-11aam. All are invited to exchange of children's clothes (ages 0-13). It is free, you can donate on the day clean clothing which is not stained or damaged. . You do not have donate clothes to take some.

**See also:** virtual wine tasting, above, p.4

## **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE**

Friday 4th **March** 2022 - 2.00 pm

Shrivenham Methodist Church and on

the Shrivenham & Ashbury Benefice Facebook page

Everyone is welcome to join us

World Day of Prayer is a women led, global, ecumenical movement which raises awareness and funds to help the women of countries around the world which are part of the Movement. This is mainly achieved by holding a special ecumenical service in all these countries on the first Friday of March every year.



This year the service is actually focusing on the women of England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Although we have been part of the Movement for many years, it will certainly feel very different as we prepare this year, knowing that people at services around the world will be looking towards England, Wales and Northern Ireland; praying for us as they learn about how these countries have changed over the years and are now places of great diversity both in topography and population.

The service will also be live streamed on the Shrivenham and Ashbury Facebook page so if you are unable to attend (or still do not feel comfortable coming into church) you can watch it at home. Copies of the Service will be available online or, if you prefer, please let me know and I will drop one into you together with an envelope in which you might like to make a donation and return to me (or ask me to collect from you). Or you can donate directly to the WDP Organisation. **Maggie Simons**

### **A POEM FOR FEBRUARY.**

#### **A Green Heart**

Into a dark wood  
A snowdrop comes,  
A benison  
Of hope and peace,  
Carrying within it  
A green heart,  
Symbol of God's renewing love.  
Come to inhabit our darkness  
Lord Christ,  
For dark and light  
Are alike to you.  
May nature's white candles of hope  
Remind us of your birth  
And light our journey  
Through Lent and beyond.

### **LONGCOT CHURCHES WORKING TOGETHER – CHAPEL NEWS**

**SUNDAY 6th** 3pm - Our Methodist minister, Revd Rachael Wilson, will be leading our service which will be a celebration of the 25th anniversary of the re-dedication

of the chapel following its extension and refurbishment. Everyone is welcome to the service and to the tea afterwards.

**FRIDAY 25th 3pm - T TIME FELLOWSHIP** – Do come and join us for afternoon tea (with crumpets!) in the chapel and enjoy plenty of chat and laughter. There is no charge but contributions to our chosen charity will be most 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: (held over from January)**

Red is for danger. And yet it's a colour much associated with Christmas. Our cards show Father Christmas splendid in his red gown, also robin redbreast features, one of the nations' favourite birds, red tinsel decorations abound and the red berries of holly are popular often against a snowy background. We teach our children from a young age that red berries are dangerous and usually poisonous yet despite this they bring a seasonal cheer at this time of year. I find it rather satisfying that I can pick berried holly from bushes I planted twenty five years ago. When I was small we had no holly and relations from Dorset would send us some each Christmas in a box and we would send them in return a brace of pheasants in the feather with a stamped addressed label round their necks. I doubt that would work today. I am looking out now on the red clusters of hanging berries that are catoneaster salcifolius. They make a pretty hedge. Another favourite is the spindleberry tree (eunomyous) and I have them in the downland hedges I have planted. In the vale these crimson clusters have now burst to reveal the large orange seed but on the downs they are still intact. I have grown on these seeds in the past in my greenhouse with success. On the downs many red rose hips still hang but the haws of hawthorn are getting less as the winter thrushes feed from them. The guelder rose which is viburnum compactum is another pretty bush that produces translucent carmine hanging clusters. A little later on mature yew trees produce red fruits which mistle thrushes seem to enjoy. Again in my childhood home mistle thrushes used to nest each year on the lower branches of a large yew in the garden. The song thrush lays a blue egg but mistle thrushes have mottled red-brown eggs. Walking the north section Offa's Dyke in lovely weather this last autumn we also enjoyed the vibrant and striking crimson showing on several isolated rowans that we passed. Looking forward, a happy and healthy New Year.

**Richard Green**

From times past; plus ça change

A sensible judge, however.

## ASHBURY.

**STABBING.**—At the Berks Spring Assizes, on Monday last, Thomas Daubeney, a lad aged 11, was indicted for unlawfully and maliciously stabbing, cutting, and wounding with a knife, and thereby inflicting grievous bodily harm upon Noah Page, at Ashbury, near Faringdon, on the 15th October, 1866. Mr. Lawrence prosecuted. The prosecutor was a lad a few years older than the prisoner, and both were engaged at plough. Whilst eating dinner the bigger lad struck his companion on the nose and otherwise provoked him. The other lad returned the blow with the hand in which he held his knife; the instrument entered the ribs and caused a punctured wound, from which he suffered for a fortnight. The jury returned a verdict of guilty, with a strong recommendation to mercy. His Lordship addressed the prisoner with much feeling, remarking that he thought the prosecutor was as bad as he was. The justice of the case would be met by his being kept in imprisonment during the assizes.

The Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle 4<sup>th</sup> March 1867

Noah was fifteen to Thomas's eleven. Noah lived in Kingston Winslow and Thomas at the "grocer's shop" in Ashbury. They disappear from the census by 1871; I wonder what happened to them both?

## 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)

**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](mailto:rogersimons1@outlook.com)

Vicar (Shrivenham) Revd Norma Fergusson 01793 784338

[rev.n.fergusson@btinternet.com](mailto:rev.n.fergusson@btinternet.com) (not Monday)

### Ashbury Village Hall

Maggie Simons 0193 710801 [maggiemsimons@outlook.com](mailto:maggiemsimons@outlook.com)

Secretary Margaret Smith 01793 710800 [mbsmith5@hotmail.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](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:** Elaine Ware 01973 783026

[elaine.ware@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:elaine.ware@whitehorsedc.gov.uk) and Simon Howell 01793 784491

[simon.howell@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:simon.howell@whitehorsedc.gov.uk)

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

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

**M.P. for the Wantage constituency:** David Johnston [david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk)  
0207 219 3000

**Newsletter entries for March 2022.** Submit your entries March by **18<sup>th</sup> February** to: M. Turner Claremont, Ashbury SN6 8LN. [marionlturner@me.com](mailto:marionlturner@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.