

Charney Chatter

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**PUBLISHED BY
CHARNEY BASSETT
PARISH COUNCIL**

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Your councillors:-

Geoff Beer (Chairman), Buckland Rd. 868709
Jim Harper (Vice-chairman), Barnfield 868288
Geoff Rumble, Buckland Road 868738
John Stiles, Barnfield 868191
Jos Bath, Buckland Road 868260

Meetings are held at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall on the second Wednesdays of odd-numbered months.

The next meeting is on 12th March, 2008

ADVERTS AND EVENTS

Personalised Home-made Cards

If you can't find the right card for that special occasion, Eunice will make one for you. Ring her on 868646. Proceeds to charity

Village Diner

The Village Diner provides home-made food from local sources in Buckland Village Hall, at 12.15 p.m. every third Wednesday in the month except in August and December. For £4 you get a splendid two-course meal, tea or coffee and a chat. Next date 19th March.

Piano Teacher

Liz Cowlam, experienced Piano Teacher qualified to CT ABRSM. Preparation for exams if desired. Tel: 868318.

Village Hall Bookings

Contact Eunice Davies on 868646 with your requirements, both for hire of the Hall itself and the crockery and cutlery.

Summer events to look forward to!

Charney Church Fête 21st June and the Meal on the Green 12th July. More details and timings to follow nearer the dates!

Kingston Bagpuize Drama Group

Work, love and life are just one long, hard slog for the fish-filleting foursome, Pearl, Jan, Shelley and Linda. But their fortunes are set to change when Linda finds tickets to Royal Ascot Ladies' Day (but at York).

Out go the hairnets, overalls and wellies as

the four ditch work, do themselves up to the nines and head off to the races for a drink, a flirt and a flutter. If their luck holds, they could hit the jackpot - and more besides...

Ladies' Day by Amanda Whittington, Directed by Kate Belcher (Charney resident!)

Kingston Bagpuize Village Hall, April 24, 25, 26, 7.30pm (doors open at 7pm). Tickets on sale from mid-March from KB Post Office, Southmoor Food and Wine, The Log Cabin.

Village Hall Project Curry Evening

Gratwick Barn, The Green, Charney Bassett
Saturday 15th March 7.30 for 8.00 pm

Tickets by donation, suggested minimum £15 per person. Contact: Julie Rumble 868738

Priority to Charney and Lyford residents up to 1st March, Final order date - 12th March.

Delicious authentic dishes. Bring your own wine or beer. Can you help us raise £800 towards the Village Hall Development Project?

CHAFT Quiz Night at The Chequers

General knowledge family event Sunday 13th April - 6.30 for 7.00 p.m.

Delicious hot brain food at half-time. Raffle and team prizes - bring your own 'joker' £5 per person - book your table now!

Teams of approx 4-6+ If you would like to join in but don't have a team, let us know and we will fix you up. Contact: Lucy 868782.

WE'RE A QUALITY COUNCIL!

A Government Rural White Paper published in 2000 confirmed the Government's support for parish and town councils and underlined their important role as the first tier of government closest to local people. Consequently the Quality Parish and Town Council Scheme was launched in 2003 with the aim of defining a minimum standard for councils across the country.

A Quality parish council is expected to be representative of and actively involve all parts of their community; to be effectively and properly managed with members upholding a high standard of conduct; to express the communities needs through effective communications and to work in partnership with other local authorities to deliver local services.

So far, out of the 10,000 plus town and parish councils in England just over 500 have achieved Quality status. While the benefits of the Scheme are not immediately obvious in the short term, Quality councils will

have more clout in dealing with District and County councils.

In 2007, your council opted to go for Quality status and The Clerk assembled a portfolio to show that the council met the 50+ criteria. The Oxfordshire County Accreditation Panel met early in 2008 to consider the portfolio and agreed to grant



Quality status to Charney Bassett Parish Council. We are the smallest parish council in England to achieve this accolade. There are only four other Quality councils in Oxfordshire, three of them Town Councils (Didcot, Carterton and Bicester) and one other parish council - The Bartons, Banbury.

With its track record of improvements to village amenities and the various ways it communicates with villagers, councillors felt they were performing as a quality council and it is pleased to have this confirmed by this achievement. The council will not rest on its laurels and will continue to strive to do its best for the community.

FIRST AID COURSE

As this issue goes to press there are still a couple of places available on the Village College First Aid Course on March 5th. Cost £30, full details from Jos Bath on 868260 - but be quick!

HEADLINES

- *Charney Field trees have been planted.*
- *Spot the HGVs!*
- *Students wanted for Village College.*
- *Don't get caught speeding!*

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Coffee Hour sessions in the Village Hall on Tuesdays (10.30-11.30) are running until 18th March. Call in and chat. 50p buys you as much tea or coffee as you can drink - with biscuits too! Everyone welcome!

Deadline for copy for the next edition in May 2008: 20 April 2008

Contributions are welcome, preferably by e-mail. Adverts are free!

Charney Chatter can be e-mailed free to anyone giving their e-mail address to the Editor

Visit www.charneybassettpc.org.uk for the very latest village news

CHARNEY FIELD

On 14th February, when most men in the village were getting their Valentines breakfast in bed (!), The Charney Army mustered and prepared the Field for tree planting by digging lots of holes and hammering in lots of stakes. The tree-planting morning on 16th was a great success (even if cold!), with a variety of specimen trees and shrub stands with a total value approaching £1,000 now in place. This is a real achievement on everybody's part, with special thanks to Geoff and Julie Rumble and the Charney Army. CHAFT would also particularly like to thank the many residents who sponsored the purchase of the trees and shrubs - and you can still do this if you missed out on the first round

The trees have been laid out with a path meandering through them leading to a picnic area. Their progress will be watched carefully and contingency plans are in place to water them if global warming gives us a long hot summer!

The bird and bat boxes have been installed, again thanks to The Charney Army and the locations are indicated with tree markers to identify the "owners" of the boxes. Evidence of pecking suggests that birds are already investigating the boxes, so we cross our fingers and look forward to updates from Derek McClintock to whom thanks are due for project managing this enterprise.

Elisabeth Dahele

COUNTY COUNCIL NEWS

There are three major issues facing the Council at the moment. The first is that it needs to comply with European Directives to stop waste going to landfill to avoid the heavy fines for non-compliance that will be imposed (upwards of £3m). An invitation to tender for methods of waste disposal other than landfill resulted in all tenders proposing an incinerator (otherwise known as Energy from Waste)

A lot of people are upset about this proposal and the Council Chamber visitor's gallery was full of people wanting to protest. The Cabinet will now look at the proposals and narrow them down to a preferred bidder. I expect an incinerator to be built in Oxfordshire during the next few years.

The second issue is the provision of a safe lorry park in Oxfordshire for HGV drivers who travel long distances with precious cargo. At the moment there isn't one in the county. OCC officers are now investigating sites for such a park.

The third issue is the budget which, after going through all the Scrutiny Committees each of which made recommendations to the Cabinet, has resulted in a Council Tax increase of 4%. The pressures are around Adult Social Care, Waste and Road maintenance.

Melinda Tilley, Kingston Bagpuize Division.
Tel: 01865 820385 Mob: 07816834234
E-Mail melinda.tilley@oxfordshire.gov.uk

THE CHEQUERS

Refurbishment work on The Chequers is now drawing to a close and is expected to be completed in time for Easter. The pub has continued to function throughout and customers have been able to peep around the

dust sheets to see progress. It's looking very good and the promise to keep a village pub atmosphere has definitely been kept. Come along and see for yourselves. Husnu and Roberta will be delighted to serve you.

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DOG FOULING

It's been some time since this subject was raised in the Chatter but, sadly, here it comes again. I have recently (re)joined the "walkies" set, accompanying Eunice and her special birthday present, Ruby, on walks, mainly around Charney Field. I am appalled at the amount of dog faeces I have seen, on bridle and footpaths and in the middle of the Field itself, just where kids kick a football around. How many more times must irresponsible dog owners be told that failing to pick up dog poo is a disgusting anti-social habit with potential to blind children?

Pick it up and take it home for disposal!

You may have noticed in the local press that Grove Parish Council is now likely to deal with their poo problem by banning dogs from their playing field. This is a drastic step with so many owners exercising their dogs there but it's got so bad that they have no other alternative, despite the fact that it's another case of a minority spoiling it for the rest.

Don't force your Parish Council to take similar action!

Ed

CHURCH NEWS

Pancake Morning

The pancake morning on 9th February raised the sum of £236.70. The PCC would like to thank all who came with a really big thank you to the Greenacres for hosting the event.

Soup Lunch - a BIG thank you!

Thank you to everyone who came along to the simple Soup Lunch in Charney Bassett Village Hall on Sunday 24th February and to everyone who contributed food and other help. Thank you, too, to all those who brought along toys, either to the lunch or to the preceding All Age Worship service in St Peter's Church. The magnificent sum of £166 was raised at the lunch, some of which was donated under Gift Aid, raising even more. The money will be going to help pay to ship toys and school equipment collected here in Charney and in

Gainfield to the Joshua Villages in Malawi, a project supported by the Benefice of Cherbury with Gainfield.

It's not too late to donate toys and/or money - a box for toys remains in St Peter's Church, and a collecting jar for donations will be out at all services during Lent.

Blossoms and Brides

Exhibition of wedding dresses across the decades up to today with flowers and associated photographs.

Saturday 29th March, 2.00 - 5.00 p.m. and Sunday 30th March, 10.00 a.m. - 2.30 p.m.

Entry free - donations to funds most welcome. Home-baked refreshments on sale. Family blessing service at 4.00 pm on Sunday. Details from Kay 868599 or Lucy 868782.

SOUTH AND VALE CARERS

The South and Vale Carers Centre, one of the charities supported by the Parish Council, is starting a new project and is looking for volunteers. Would you be interested in helping out someone caring for a relative in their own home? You would be introduced to

a household where the carer and the cared-for person are living and asked to stay in the home while the carer took some time off - perhaps an hour a month, perhaps an afternoon a week.

Details from Chris Elliott 01235 510212 or chris@svcarers.org.uk.

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VILLAGE COLLEGE

The Computing for the Terrified course is going very well and feedback from students is very good.

Pilates and Yoga courses continue and there is a proposal to introduce a second Pilates course on Wednesday mornings. One hour sessions would cost £5.50 per person, the same as the Friday classes which would also be run by Rona Bennett. Seven students are needed to get this off the ground with one already signed up. If you're interested please contact Jos Bath as soon as possible on 868260.

Another Flower Arranging course with six session will be held between April and June.

So far, insufficient students have enrolled for the course on Digital Photography but we are still advertising it and once enough have signed up it will run.

We still need more students to enrol for Yoga as diminishing numbers mean we might have to raise the fees to an unacceptable level to break even.

For details of all College courses contact Jos Bath on 868260.

NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION GROUP

Hi there. I am PC Paul Rowland; I am a member of the Neighbourhood team based at Faringdon. The team consists of Sergeant Elaine Tearney, myself, PC Phil Redmond and PC Simon Jenkin. We are supported by four Police Community support officers (PCSO's). Dave Clarke, Serena Stockwell, Maralyn Pack & Myra Stokes. As well as Faringdon town we cover villages East & West including Charney Bassett. This area is known as Neighbourhood Action Group 2 (NAG 2). Phil Redmond has a geographical responsibility for the East and is supported by PCSO's Clarke & Stokes.

Should you have any information about local matters or wish to make contact with the neighbourhood team* we can be contacted on

08458 505 505. This is the non-urgent number and if we are on duty you will be put through, or be able to leave a voice mail message if we are off duty. There is 24hr cover by response officers when we are on and off duty. For emergencies use 999 or 112.

Currently the top priority as identified by public consultation on NAG 2 is speeding. A speed indicator device (SID) is at our disposal and has been used at identified locations. This is due to be deployed again soon so make sure at all times you watch your speed. **And don't get caught!**

*Note: Dave Sibbert (868734) and Peter Davies (868646) are members of NAG2

OCK BRIDGE

You may have seen (and heard!) publicity in the media about a serious crack in the bridge over the River Ock. This is now being repaired by OCC Highways but the Parish Council is still pursuing a weight restriction through the village to prevent a recurrence. First response from OCC is "No" and maybe Plan B - an "Unsuitable for HGVs" sign will

have to be adopted. Meanwhile, if you see an HGV struggling through the village, make a note of the name on it and, ideally, a telephone number as well and tell the Council. We have found some damage to Ock Green caused by an HGV and we need evidence to press our case. A knowledge of where these vehicles have come from and are going to will help.

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FROM YOUR MP - ED VAIZEY

Many congratulations to the parish council for being earmarked as excellent, a real feather in your cap.

February was the month when Councils - county, district and parish - set their bills for the coming year. I was contacted by one lady pensioner after my last column asking why I had not highlighted the difficulties many pensioners face with their Bills. I am duly admonished and would go further and say that council tax is a real burden not just for pensioners but for many families. After our mortgage and food, it is probably the main item of our monthly household budget. This column is not meant to be political. However, it is worth pointing out that the County Council's grant from Government has increased by two per cent next year, and by just 1.75% and 1.5% for the subsequent years - all below the level of inflation. Nevertheless, the County has succeeded in limiting any increase to below 4%, and has found £10 million in efficiency savings.

Council tax is too high - but I still think it is the best system in principle for local taxation, mainly because it is easy to collect. I think we need to look at how we help pensioners, and also how we reduce the burdens on local

government set by central government, in order to bring costs down.

On another constituency matter, I am delighted that, after a long campaign, we have succeeded in introducing post-16 special needs education in schools across the county. This was a campaign led by parents, and supported by all local MPs, and it is very gratifying to see a good result.

Finally, the employment arrangements of MPs came under scrutiny in February. I do not employ any family members. My wife Alex is a successful lawyer so wouldn't work for me anyway. My son Joseph, while obviously a genius, is only sixteen months old. By the time you read this, we will with luck have been joined by a fourth member of our family (due on February 29th). As I will be taking paternity leave, you should see fewer pictures of my ugly mug in the local paper. But there will be no diminution of other services as I will continue dealing with post and e-mails.

You can contact me at the House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA, on 0207 219 6350 or at vaizey@parliament.uk.

Next Surgery is on 7th March at Wantage Civic Hall, Waylands Room from 5:30 -7pm

CLET

Charney and Lyford Education Trust, CLET, supports a range of educational projects, with grants both to individuals under the age of 25 and to the community in Charney and Lyford.

Applications will be considered by the Trustees who meet in January, May and September. Details from the Clerk: Frances

Rothwell, "Oldwalls", Buckland Road, Tel: 868704 E-mail: fc.rothwell@tiscali.co.uk.

The next meeting of the CLET Trustees will be on Wednesday 7th May 2008. Forms for applications to be considered at this meeting may be obtained from the Clerk and should be returned to her as soon as possible

100 CLUB DRAW

The first 2008 draw was held on January 29th. Winners were Tony King (97) £25 and Andrea and Graham James (121) £10.

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