

# Charney Chatter

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## Published by Charney Bassett Parish Council

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## Your councillors:-

Mike Cox (Chairman) 868276  
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Sue Dobson 868119  
Jane Fry 868114  
David Roberts 868285.

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

**The next meeting is on Wednesday 11th September 2013**

## ADVERTISEMENTS

### Hanney Film Night

1st Friday from September - May

7.30 at Hanney Village Hall

6th September - "Quartet". A very amusing English comedy of ageing theatrical stars in an old peoples home-wonderful cast of all your favourites.

4th October - "The Imposter"

1st November - "The Artist"

6th December - "Hugo"

Enquiries to [bobwilson300@hotmail.com](mailto:bobwilson300@hotmail.com)

### The Village Diner

Your community lunch for £5.00 per person

#### Buckland Memorial Hall

Do come and enjoy a hearty, hot 2 course lunch in a cheerful village setting on the third Wednesday of each month. Future dates for your diary :-

Weds 18th September 12.15pm

Weds 16th October 12.15pm

Weds 20th November 12.15pm

Deadline for copy for the November 2013 edition: **20th October 2013**

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

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

### Eunice Davies 1937-2013

St Peter's Church was packed to overflowing on 7th August when we marked the passing and celebrated the life of our friend Eunice. And she was a friend to everyone who knew her. Always calm, always kind, she immersed herself in the life of the village and contributed to so many of the activities here.

Eunice came from not very far away. East Ilsley and then Harwell, where she met her husband Peter through bell-ringing. After ten years in Grove they moved to Charney Bassett in 1976. Eunice had an active working life in Wantage and Grove, but when she finally retired she threw herself into local and village activities. An enthusiastic member of the Village College, she learned computer skills and put these to good use here by running the bookings for the Village Hall and locally as secretary to the Cockcroft Society of Change Ringers and editor of the local bell-ringers newsletter.

Eunice was well known for her interest in and flair for crafts of all sorts. Needlework, flower arranging, gardening and, of course, card making. She not only did these things but was always prepared to share her expertise and join with others in improving their skills. She was also a constant supporter of the village Coffee Hour and organised it from 2004 until she became unwell earlier this year; it will not seem the same without her.

We will all miss you Eunice. Thank you for being our friend.

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### Coffee Hour

Coffee Hour will resume in the Village Hall at 10:30 on **Tuesday 10th September**.

The cost of £1.00 per person includes as much tea or coffee as you like and biscuits too.

**CHAFT 100 Club Winners July & August**

	<b>First Prize £25</b>	<b>Second Prize £10</b>
<b>July</b>	No 85 Sue & Steve Champion	No 135 David Douglas
<b>August</b>	No 6 Julie Rumble	No 11 John & Mary Daghish

Mahala & David — Charney 100 Club Organisers

**A Note to Dog Walkers**

We have a beautiful village with lots of beautiful walks. Some this is being spoilt as there seems to be an increase in the amount of dog mess being left behind. Please remember to take it home with you.

Andrea James  
Weeping Willows  
Longworth Road

**Rural Crime**

Thames Valley Police now attend every rural crime reported under the new Force definition. This means that any reports which were previously dealt with over the phone by the Police Enquiry Centre, such as un-witnessed criminal damage or low value thefts, will now be escalated and an appointment made with the victim. Any incidents previously dealt with by an appointment will now come under the urgent attendance policy which means the police officers will aim to be with the caller/victim within one hour. Any incidents in the past classed as urgent will continue to receive an immediate response.

(from ORCC Bulletin, Aug 2013)

**Dementia Support Initiative**

Would you like to make your community Dementia Friendly? Get involved with the Dementia Friendly Communities project through ORCC and we can support you to do just that. We can support you to;

- Galvanise support for making your community dementia friendly where you live
- Provide your community with FREE training to help you have a better understanding of dementia
- Support you to devise a practical plan that will make a difference for those living with dementia in your area

We need your help to make communities across Oxfordshire better places for people with dementia to live.

To find out how you can make a difference contact Beth Weston at ORCC on [beth.weston@oxonrcc.org.uk](mailto:beth.weston@oxonrcc.org.uk) or 01865 883488

Visit [www.charneybassett.org.uk](http://www.charneybassett.org.uk) for the very latest village news

**From your MP - Ed Vaizey**

The Wantage and Didcot Constituency is a fascinating place! I've recently been reviewing some of the statistics which are provided to MPs and have seen that we are one of the most prosperous areas in the UK. 83% of people locally between the ages of 16 and 64 are employed and nearly 89% are economically active, with around 7% running their own businesses. That compares with an employment rate of 74% across the South East and 71% nationally. Of those working in the constituency, 83% work full time compared with 74% nationally, meaning our workforce has more stable and often more rewarding employment, with average local incomes 10% above the national level. That's due, in some part, to the fact that 34% of local residents have a degree or higher qualification and just 3% have no qualifications at all. Businesses set up locally do better over their first five years than in other places too. We are home to some of the most exciting and innovative scientific enterprises in the world.

What that string of statistics actually means is that the Constituency is not only a very attractive area in which to live, but also a vibrant and successful one. We do have some real challenges, such as the fact that house prices are very high in relation to our incomes, and finding a decent home in the area can be a real challenge. Helping people with housing problems is one of the areas where I am kept busy, and identifying suitable places to build the new homes we need is a real challenge. On that last point, I am continuing to lobby ministers nationally to try to have planning laws and guidance made really fit for purpose so we can build the homes we need without imposing inappropriate growth on rural communities. The Minister who leads on planning, Nick Boles, will be visiting the Constituency at my invitation in September to hear directly from constituents about the problems we have here with the current system.

This month my mailbag has been a little lighter than other recent months. Parliamentary recess has begun and the House of Commons won't sit again until the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September. Of course, I am still working, and while my emails from constituents may have slowed, it has definitely not stopped. There are two main issues about which people have been writing to me. A campaign to ensure the fast sealing of the new Royal Charter for press regulation and a campaign to get Britain

cycling.

A Royal Charter to implement a tough new system of press self-regulation, which gained cross party agreement in Parliament, was concluded and sent to the Privy Council for sealing on the 18th March. Shortly after this, the press petitioned the Privy Council Office with an alternative Royal Charter. This is now being fully considered by the Privy Council to ensure that the process of implementing Leveson is as robust as possible. We must now wait for the Privy Council's conclusions.

A number of constituents have also contacted me about getting people in Britain cycling, an issue which the Government has already taken significant action on. However, an area of great concern for people considering starting to cycle is the safety for drivers on the road, so I am pleased to hear that the Government has allocated £107m to support cycling safety, loosened rules so Local Authorities can introduce 20mph speed limits in residential areas, and made it easier to install Trixi mirrors to improve the visibility of cyclists at junctions.

I am delighted that the Department for Transport has allocated £5 million to help sort out the Milton Interchange on the A34. This junction is a significant 'pinch point' which has long needed addressing. The scheme will improve the operation and increase the capacity at Milton Interchange, by providing a 'hamburger' style roundabout of the type which have so improved the traffic flows around the Oxford bypass. It should enable the junction to operate effectively even with planned growth in traffic, and help all of us living and working in the area.

And one final note! I was astonished to hear about the plans being put forward by a developer for an international airport south of Marcham. There are many reasons why this is a very daft idea, most of which have been reported widely. Please rest assured that if the concept doesn't disappear of its own accord very swiftly, I will do all that I can to ensure that it never gets beyond the drawing board.

As ever please feel free to contact me at the House of Commons, SW1A 0AA, 020 7219 6350 or [vaizeye@parliament.uk](mailto:vaizeye@parliament.uk). Surgery details can be found at [www.vaizey.com](http://www.vaizey.com).

**Ed Vaizey MP**

**BIG BUTTERFLY COUNT 20th July - 11th August 2013**

I took part for the first time this year. You will probably agree we have never seen more Butterflies in Charney as we have this year.

Here is the list of species I recorded on my observation day in my garden and on the Playing Field.

Large White / Small White / Green Veined White / Ringlet / Red Admiral / Peacock / Meadow Brown / Gatekeeper / Small Tortoiseshell.

We also have in and around the village many other species, many moths and bees also, some of these are listed as . . . *rare* !

On my list is a *Ringlet*, I had not previously heard of this species, it is rare and endangered. I saw it on the Playing Field among the tall grasses that border the Bridle Path. Here are hundreds of brown butterflies but it is not possible from a distance to tell one from another.

Perhaps next year you too might care to also *Flutter By* !

Jim Harper, Barnfield

**Flower Arranging Classes**

Flower Arranging Classes will be held in the Village Hall on Tuesdays between 2pm and 4pm starting on October 8th and running for a course of six sessions on alternate weeks finishing on 17th December.

The costs will be £6 per attended session to include refreshments with an additional fee payable once to cover hall hire.

To book a place please contact Jane Fry on 868114.

**A Pretty Village Ditty** by Jim Harper, Barnfield

<i>Charney</i> ....such a pretty place!	Village Hall and College too.
I'm sure you all agree.	Who would not want to live here?
With fine stone walls, St Peter's Church	Perched next....to me and you!
All steeped....in history.	
	Idyllic then....like Heaven?
The Chequers and The Green of course	Well, not quite....if you'll agree.
Fete, Feast plus Maypole gay	Some gutters choked
With crowning of the Queen.	And pathways blocked,
A Tree aglow at Christmas,	Bright lights that blind our eyes
Playing Fields, Aunt Sally Team	<b>Who</b> then for these responsible?
	<b>May come as a surprise!</b>
Wise Councillors to lead us,	

**Update on St Peter's Church and churchyard**

We are very much aware of the concerns of some residents with regard to the maintenance and presentation of the churchyard. You will recall, from the article in Charney Chatter in July, that we took the decision to limit grass cutting to that part of the churchyard in current use. This was in response to the increasing financial burden on our limited budget, to concerns about damage to graves from contractor's machinery and in line with the Church of England's directive for retention of areas of natural habitat in graveyards.

In deference to the comments received, we have sought further guidance from the Diocese and we had a most constructive meeting on site with the DAC Advisor. When she visited St Peter's she carried out an extensive review of both the church and the graveyard.

In line with her recommendations, we propose to retain an area of natural habitation. However, we plan to return to cutting the west end, by the Commonwealth war grave, and to reduce the wildlife zone in the main churchyard, keeping the active graves and their surrounding area more accessible.

We are also proposing to create a defined site at the west end for interment of ashes. The Advisor recommended other churches which have successfully adopted this approach. We welcome any suggestions or examples for how we may develop this project.

You are also aware of the limitations of our church as a building. Those of you who attended the harp concert and indeed the various recent funerals of much-loved villagers realise the challenges we face. There is no running water, let alone toilet or kitchen facilities and space is at a premium. The Advisor made a number of very practical suggestions on how we can address these and maximise the space. She strongly recommended that we apply for an Archdeacon's Temporary Licence allowing us to experiment with variations on layout. It is therefore our intention to trial some alternatives, and we will publicise these when they are in place so that you can come to have a look, as we value your feedback.

The Diocesan Advisor had more immediate concerns about the fabric of the building. Damp is a perennial problem. She strongly advised us to excavate the French drain around the perimeter of the church, outside, and to remove the carpet from inside. The latter is inhibiting the natural breathing of the building and is exacerbating the damp problem. These are therefore the most immediate priorities in our overall action plan for St Peter's Church building and graveyard.

We are very keen to promote the use of this lovely building for worship and for the wider benefit of the village. We welcome all ideas for future concerts and other events.

Doug Hughes, Churchwarden

Lucy Gildersleeves, PCC Treasurer

**Oxfordshire Woodfuel Programme**

The Oxfordshire Woodfuel Programme has launched a woodfuel standard, OxLogs, which aims to improve woodfuel quality in Oxfordshire, and counter the uncertainty of what is meant by 'a load of seasoned wood'. OxLogs suppliers will specify the volume, moisture content, type of wood (hard or soft) and length of the wood. When you buy logs, ask for OxLogs! More information at [www.oxonwoodfuel.org.uk](http://www.oxonwoodfuel.org.uk)