

# Charney Chatter

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

MAY 2004

## EDITORIAL

It's the time of year again when you can have a say in what you think the Parish Council should be doing in the coming year - at the Annual Assembly. This will be held on the same date as the normal Council meeting, 12 May. The brief AGM of the Council will be at 7.30 p.m. and the Assembly follows at 8.00 p.m.

There is no fixed agenda for the Assembly but in order to have some structure, it will be based on the standard Council agenda. The idea is that after a

brief review of the past year and brief contributions from County and District councillors and beat bobby, the floor is open for discussion on what needs to be done in the village.

Why not come along and express your views on what the Council should be doing to improve the environment in which you live? The Council does what it believes villagers would want but it would welcome ideas on what it should be doing in the future.

## VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT

Most of the village looks tidy and Julie Rumble's street cleaning is a major factor in this. However, she is fighting a losing battle with litter - stuff which gets thrown out of cars as they pass through.

Subject to health and safety law, we will be arranging a village clean-up. If you join in on this you may need to promise that you will not sue the Council if you cut yourself while picking things up!

Outside the village, fly-tipping seems to be on the increase. If you spot any, ring the Vale Council on 01235 520202, ask for Waste Management and

report it - or tell The Clerk about it and he will.

There are already volunteers who do jobs around the village. For example, the Rumbles have just removed the rogue lilac tree by the bus shelter and have donated and planted replacement shrubs. Mary and John DGLISH are in the middle of thistle picking around the children's play area. But there are plenty more jobs which need doing and which need more volunteers to help. Why not join the Charney Army? See Clerk's Corner!

## PUBLISHED BY

Editor: Peter Davies, Clerk  
"Narrogin"  
Longworth Road  
Charney Bassett  
Phone: 01235 868646

## Your councillors:-

Geoff Beer (Chairman), Buckland Rd. 868709  
Jim Harper (Vice-chairman), Barnfield 868288  
Penny McGuire, Main Street 868666  
John Stiles, Barnfield 868191  
Stafford Taylor, Threshers Barn 868973

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

**The next meeting is on 12 May 2004 and will be followed at 8.00 p.m. by the Annual Assembly.**

Deadline for copy for the next edition in July 2004: 24 June 2004

## CLERK'S CORNER

### Good Neighbour

Tim Fitzgerald O'Connor, the owner of the land alongside Charney Field, has repeated his offer of free horse manure. Details on request.

### Dog Fouling

No, not the Field this time but Stanford bridle path. I have received complaints of fouling left in the middle of the path where other users are likely to step in it. This is an offence (and offensive!) and it must be removed and disposed of. But, (don't quote me on this), it should not be beyond the wit of dog walkers to think of a way of removing the offending material from the path safely on the spot!

### Seats

The Council intends to provide a number of seats in strategic places in the village,

including Charney Field. It may get a grant towards this but it would welcome offers from anyone who might wish to donate one, for example in memory of someone. Details on request.

### Charney Army

Volunteers are sought for the Charney Army - a band of volunteers prepared to undertake jobs around the village such as spinney clearance on Charney Field, maintenance of the Village Green and the Orchard (Ock Green), litter clearance and other minor environment jobs. It is hoped to arrange regular Saturday morning sessions throughout the Summer and Autumn and if you can spare up to a couple of hours a month, please let me have your e-mail address or telephone number - so that I can notify you of parades!

## ADVERTS

### Worldwide Memorabilia Ltd.

For a gift with a difference, we specialise in autographed photos of film, TV, music and sports stars & general memorabilia. We can also source particular items you would love to own, or try one of our memorable tours, events or period mysteries.

www.worldwide-memorabilia.co.uk

e-mail: sales@worldwide-memorabilia.co.uk

Telephone/fax no 01235 867469.

### Calling all gardeners

Are you splitting your perennials, weeding your borders or transplanting your seedlings? If so, could you pot up a few extra plants for the plant stall at the Village Fete on Saturday 10 July? Contact Mary DGLISH on 868557 if you need any pots.

## HEADLINE TOPICS

- *Litter and fly-tipping*
- *Special constables*
- *Charney archaeology.*
- *Planning*
- *Spring Fling*
- *Charney Army*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Village College	2
Charney Field	2
Police News	2
Charney Mill	3
Clerk's Corner	4
Adverts	4

## VILLAGE COLLEGE

The VC continues with French Conversation, Yoga and Flower Arranging.

The willow weaving day course held on 24 March was a great success and as a result another will be held on 21 May. Numbers are limited so book now if you want to come and find out how to weave willow into a variety of shapes to grace your gardens.

Willow will also feature in two other courses to be run later in the year on basketry and Christmas decorations. Watch this space for

details or contact Jackie on 868706.

It's worth repeating that the VC is not just for adult education and we would welcome suggestions for courses for youngsters. College management contacts:

Jackie Cross (868706)

Peter Davies (868646)

Elisabeth Dahele (868673).

E-mail: [villagecollege@hotmail.com](mailto:villagecollege@hotmail.com)

Letters: Village Hall post box.

## CHARNEY FIELD

The children's play area has been fenced and includes an area alongside the climbing equipment for use by children (and grandparents and parents) for example for picnics. A couple of benches will be placed in this area so that those who supervise children can have somewhere to sit and watch. The grass has grown a bit long over the last couple of weeks and some mowing and thistle removal has been undertaken to tidy things up. It is clear that this area needs

cutting regularly.

An area of the Field, adjacent to the trees on the south side of the Field has been left uncut to encourage the creation of a wild flower "meadow" which could also be used to arrange "bug hunts" in the Summer. However, dock plants must be removed from this un-mown area to ensure that they don't overrun the rest of the Field. If you see a dock plant, please uproot it!

## POLICE NEWS

PC Martyn Holder, our local bobby, will attend the Annual Parish Assembly. He will report village crime statistics and provide an update on criminal activities in the surrounding area which could have an impact on the village. Come along and meet him and question him on any police matters which concern you.

The search is on to find more motivated and community-minded people to become Special Constables in Thames Valley Police.

Rod Attewell, Chief Area Officer for the S. Oxon Police Area of Thames Valley's Special Constabulary writes: "We are keen to

increase our numbers further and hope that this year's recruitment campaign will again help us find strong communicators who enjoy working as part of a loyal, close-knit team. I believe those who join us gain a real sense of achievement, have the opportunity to test themselves and their abilities and meet people from all walks of life."

If you are interested in finding out more about how to become a Special Constable ring 01865-846612 or you can find more information and application forms at: [www.thamesvalley.police.uk/recruiting/](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/recruiting/)

## PLANNING

There are two outstanding planning applications to be determined: conversion of a barn at Gunton Barn into a dwelling and extension of the garden at Manor Farm House into the adjacent paddock. The Council has objected to both of these on the grounds that the Local Plan does not permit them. The former of these applications, which was refused by the planning authority has gone to appeal which means there'll be a public inquiry into the refusal.

The Council uses the Local Plan as a guide when considering applications. The current plan runs to 2005 but a draft new plan runs

to 2011. If you are considering a planning application you might save some time, effort and expense if you ask what the Local Plan permits.

While on the subject of planning, I'm always being asked which buildings in the village are listed. They are: St Peter's church, Charney Manor, Charney Mill, Home Farm, Hillside, Straddlestones, Timings, Stoneleigh, Byways, Mount Pleasant, The Cottage on the Green, Gratwick Barn, Green Farm, The White House, The Old Stables Barn and the War Memorial. The first two are Grade I, the rest Grade II.

## CHARNEY MILL

A group of villagers went on a "mini outing" to Grove in the Stanford Community bus to hear a talk by Bruce Hedge, of the Vale of White Horse Industrial Archaeology Group, one of the team undertaking the mill restoration. His talk was not limited to the mill and the audience was led on a tour of the parish, aided by aerial photographs, showing evidence of Neolithic, Iron Age, Bronze Age and Roman settlements all over the place. Of particular interest was the location of a circular burial barrow alongside

the road to Lyford. This site is apparently visible under certain conditions due to the variation in crop patterns which the ancient ditch produces.

The Mill's gear is in working order and Bruce produced evidence to show it is relatively modern, having replaced older gear in the nineteenth century. The Mill will be open to the public on the afternoons of National Mills Day, 9 May and the Village Fete on 10 July.

## SPRING FLING ON CHARNEY FIELD

The Spring Fling, held on 24 April on a glorious day, saw nearly thirty children taking part in a scavenger hunt. Each child was given a bag, a clipboard, pencil and worksheet and told to find a list of items. In addition, they had to count pictures of four different animals cunningly concealed around the Field. The reward for their efforts was an Easter egg each.

The Fling was organised by Kay Adamson, with Lucy Gildersleeves helping out with refreshments. The play equipment was put to full use by the children too young to go scavenging and a super time was had by all. It was very rewarding to the Parish Council to see so many people enjoying themselves on the Field. The event raised £50 towards the maintenance of the Field facilities.