

PUBLISHED BY CHARNEY

**BASSETT PARISH
COUNCIL**

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Your councillors:-

Geoff Beer (Chairman), Buckland Rd. 868709
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Penny McGuire, Main Street 868666
Geoff Rumble, Buckland Road 868738
John Stiles, Barnfield 868191

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 11th May 2005.

ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

The next Council meeting is the Annual Bobby, PC Martyn Holder hopes to be present Assembly at which anybody can raise any and County and District councillors are invited. issues relevant to the village. Your local

FAIRTRADE COFFEE HOUR

At Coffee Hour on March 8th there was a Fairtrade stall for villagers to check out some of the products that give a better deal for third world producers. Coffee Hour normally serves Fairtrade coffee and tea. The stall had brisk trading in coffee, cookies, chocolate mini eggs and other items, sales totalled £66. It was good to have some visitors to Coffee Hour who enjoyed the buzz of conversation as well as the Fairtrade goodies. This was an event during Fairtrade fortnight. A booklet called 'Fairtrade guide, Faringdon' has also been delivered round Charney Bassett. More information: www.fairtrade.org.uk or Marian Gardiner: 868319.

ADVERTISEMENTS

Personalised Home-made Cards

If you have difficulty finding just the right card for that special occasion, Eunice will make one for you. Give her a ring at "Narrogin", Longworth Road on 868646. Proceeds to charities.

Hanney Gardening Club Plant Sale

After several successful years the Hanney Gardening Club annual plant sale is moving into a bigger space with better parking also allowing for the sale of refreshments.

This is the chance to buy from a huge selection of plants grown by Club members. Perennials, bedding plants, house plants,

herbs and vegetables will be for sale at Hanney War Memorial Hall, 14th May 10:00 to 12:00.

Arrive early to pick the best of the bunch!

Antique Valuation Day

Bonhams, auctioneers and valuers since 1793, will be at Wallingford Town Hall on Friday 24 June 2005, 11.30 - 2.30, to value your household wonders in aid of Home-Start, a local charity helping local families with small children. Cost of valuing 2 items £5.00 and £1.00 per subsequent item (but no jewellery). Details from Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire on 01235 511152.

Charney Chatter

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 3

MAY 2005

VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT (BAD NEWS!)

Yes, I'm afraid it's dogs again! A second fouling offender has received a letter from the Parish Council reminding them of the need to act responsibly to pick up dog fouling and take it home for disposal. Let's hope the need for such letters is declining. Unfortunately, there's more bad news concerning dogs as I have learned of a terrier attack on a cat which resulted in its death.

The Jezzard family of Longworth Road have just suffered the trauma of losing a pedigree Birman cat, a much-loved pet. The cat, called Frankie, was, sadly, put down despite a series of operations costing almost four figures which failed to save him. In the opinion of the vet who treated him, the injuries which caused his death were inflicted by a small terrier and, indeed, Frankie had been seen being chased by a white-ish Yorkshire terrier, clearly out of the control of its owner.

So, cat owners (and, for that matter, parents of small children and sheep owners) beware and if the terrier owner suspects it is his or her dog which killed Frankie (and it must have returned home with blood on it) it is to be hoped they will never let this happen again. Dogs

must be kept under control and not be allowed to roam around the village, especially if they are liable to turn vicious.

... and now more bad news, but not about dogs! It's a cautionary tale about a sewage blockage similar to those in Charney reported previously, caused by disposable nappies and wipes. An antiques dealer in Deddington who stored valuable stock in his cellar lost it all when the drains overflowed with sewage. Despite having insured the stock, his insurance company will not pay up because the blockage was beyond the boundary of his premises and therefore outside the limits of the insurance cover offered. Thames Water will not pay up because the blockage was not their fault. The dealer has lost out to the tune of over £50,000. It could happen here!

A final piece of bad news is that the rats have returned to the farmyard in Buckland Road and as many as 20 have been seen. The Vale Council rat man is dealing with this infestation but until he's eliminated them you are advised to keep clear of them. The farmyard is not a public right of way but the Cherbury Camp footpath passes nearby.

HEADLINE TOPICS

- *Dogs*
- *Sewage - a cautionary tale!*
- *Look out for rats!*
- *Police contact numbers*

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Village Coffee Hour

Coffee Hour (10.30 to 11.30 on Tuesdays) has resumed in the Village Hall and will run to 24th May.

VILLAGE COLLEGE

Four courses are currently running: Yoga, Pilates, Flower Arranging and a second day-time Pilates course of six sessions, specially for older students, which could be extended to become a year-round course. Three more willow one-day courses have been arranged including one on basket weaving.

College contacts:

Jackie Cross (868706)
Peter Davies (868646)
Elisabeth Dahele (868673)
E-mail: villagecollege@hotmail.com
Letters: Village Hall post box.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

I am happy to report that the past few months have been relatively problem free but still the Police are warning of distraction burglaries in local villages. Do take care when opening the door to strangers. Use a chain on the door and always check the caller's identification. If they have nothing to hide, they won't mind waiting while you **close the door** and confirm their identity on the telephone. **Never leave anyone standing at the open door while you do this.**

The Police also do not recommend buying from traders at the door. Stickers are available to put in your window stating that you do not buy from people this way and if you would like one, please contact me.

The latest Ringmaster message is a reminder to ensure that sheds and outbuildings are kept locked. Mark tools and equipment with your

postcode and securely chain them to each other to make theft as difficult as possible.

I have failed to persuade anyone to take over the street representative's job for the Green addresses. It's not an arduous duty, it merely entails having your name put on the Police Ringmaster system, to receive messages by phone, fax or e-mail about potential crimes that are relevant to the village and which should be passed to your immediate neighbours. If you'd like to learn more about this role just call me on 868285.

We remain in one of the low crime areas of the country but if you would like more advice on security the local police in Wantage have an officer who is happy to come out to see you. Just call 01235 776007 and ask for the Crime Reduction Advisor.

Margaret Roberts Village Co-ordinator

POLICE MATTERS

I have learned of a couple of separate incidents in recent weeks which almost got missed off the crime statistics because of non-reporting - an attempted petrol theft and vandalism of a BMW owned by a visitor.

Our local beat bobby, PC Martyn Holder stresses that if in doubt you should report things because what may appear to be a non-event to you might help piece together an overall picture. He is always willing to be contacted at home or on his mobile although

he emphasises that if he is not on duty he will not be able to come rushing over to the village to see what's going on!

His phone numbers are 01367 870232 (home) and 07970 145294 (mobile). Thames Valley Police can be contacted in an emergency on 999 or 112 or in a non-emergency on 0845 8 505 505. Put these numbers in your directory or mobile memory now!

IS IT ME? - A RAMBLING BY GEOFF RUMBLE!

Long live the caring society; long live the civil service!

"Have you got time to save yourself £000s? Complete the attached questionnaire and get a free personalised report. In future we may send you further relevant information. We may give your details to other appropriate organisations".

Who is this from? Readers Digest; one of those banks that would love to handle my money and charge me for the service; perhaps a friendly double glazing company that always seems to be selling their products for less than full price; or perhaps it is one of those many insurance companies that seems to know when my insurance premium is due?

No, it is my local friendly District Council who with one breath are telling me they have to save £1.6 million so I cannot have bus tokens any more, while also telling me that they have paid a market research company to

establish that I won't mind. At the same time, they are asking me to supply data on how I light, heat and insulate my home to a Quango called the Thames Valley Energy Efficiency Advice Centre that I am paying for through taxes, which will then establish that although some people may be eligible for grants to install insulation, I am not one of them.

In separate correspondence which came my way as a Councillor, I see that NALGO has negotiated national rates of pay that seem to suggest we should be paying the editor, in his capacity as Clerk to the Council, at least £10,000 per annum, if not more. (*Wow! - Ed*)

In transition from employee to pensioner, I am beginning to understand what all those grumpy old men are complaining about. I'm not sure I like having to pay so many people comfortable salaries and guaranteed pensions to tell me what they think is best for me. But then, to quote Terry Wogan: "Is it me?!"

CHARNEY ARMY

The Charney Army has cleared barbed wire, brambles and rubbish from the copse adjacent to the children's play area and removed the old posts and rails from Ock Green to prepare for their replacement.

We're going to meet regularly on the last Thursday morning of each month to tackle other tasks. If you'd like to join, please e-mail the editor.

GREETINGS FROM JENNY AND STAFFORD TAYLOR

Spring has finally arrived in Morlaix and after 10 weeks here we are settling in and feeling at home. We have negotiated most of the French bureaucracy and even our cars now have French number plates! We are very busy with all the alterations to the house and our Gite. Bathrooms and kitchens are being made, electrical work is being carried out, bedrooms decorated, beds and linen bought, curtains have just been started. The list is never ending. The garden, or parc as they call

it here, is really beautiful and we are enjoying all the spring flowers. We are planning to be up and running in the early summer. We have just launched our web site:-
www.gites-morlaix.com.

We miss Charney Bassett and all the dear friends and neighbours we had but we are gradually making new ones. We send our love to all who knew us. It's easy to get here, so come and see us!