

Charney Chatter

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 3

MAY 2006

PUBLISHED BY
CHARNEY BASSETT
PARISH COUNCIL

Editor: Peter Davies, Clerk
"Narrogin", Longworth Road
Phone: 868646
E-mail: p.g.davies@bopenworld.com
www.charneybassettpc.org.uk

Your councillors:-

Geoff Beer (Chairman), Buckland Rd. 868709
Jim Harper (Vice-chairman), Barnfield 868288
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 12th July 2006.

CLERK'S CORNER

Planes? ... what planes?

The new transatlantic air lane which the media promised us would direct 28 planes every hour at 10,000 feet over the village has now been operational for over a month. Has anybody noticed?

Mobile Library

The mobile library has been coming to Charney fortnightly, on a Tuesday between 2.15 and 2.30pm. The day is changing to a Thursday and the time will be 10.25 to 10.40 a.m. The change will take place at the end of May and the first visit on the new timetable will be Thursday 8th June.

Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment

This new Act is gradually taking effect and the first UK law tackling light pollution came

into effect on 6 April. It makes exterior light emitted from premises so as to be a nuisance a criminal offence. Most complaints are expected to come from domestic floodlighting and decorative lighting. Where does your security light point?! There are exemptions, for example for street lights and lighthouses, neither of which is likely to concern Charney!

Village Diner

Have you yet experienced the delights of excellent food from local sources served by attractive waitresses in a happy community environment in Buckland Village Hall every third Wednesday in the month? For £4 you get a main course, a pudding and tea or coffee and it's to be recommended.

Next dates 17th May and 21st June.

ADVERTS

For Rent in Charney Bassett

Three stables, barn, lockup workshop and 2.5 acres of paddock available for rent. Please apply to Steve or Sue at Mill Cottage, Tel: 867469 or 0773 4599934.

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 a number of charities.

Home Start Antiques Roadshow!

Dig out your treasures and bring them to Wallingford Town Hall for valuation by Bonhams (auctioneers and valuers since 1793) on Saturday 10 June 2006, 10.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m., in aid of Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire, a charity helping local families with small children. Two items valued for £5 and £1 per subsequent item. Refreshments available. So come along with your treasures, ceramics, books, toys, silver, pictures etc. More information on (01235) 511152

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Every year the Council is required by law to hold a Parish Meeting (previously known as the Annual Assembly). This year's will be held on Wednesday 10th May at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall, prior to the regular Council meeting.

The purpose of the meeting is to give villagers an opportunity to raise questions with the Council outside the formality of a Council meeting. Your county and district councillors are invited together with the beat bobby, all of whom will give brief reports on what they've been up to (or in the case of PC Holder, what the villains have been up to!). The Chairman will

review the past year and the Clerk will tell you where the precept money went. Topics you may wish to discuss include highways, Charney Field, footpaths, dogs, policing, village improvements - anything goes!

The meeting is scheduled for no longer than 45 minutes and you can then stay for the Council meeting if you wish; this should last for no longer than one hour.

Then, if you've got real meeting stamina, the CHAFT AGM will follow the Council meeting at around 9.00 p.m., after a short break for liquid refreshment! See page 3 for an important announcement about CHAFT's future plans for the Village Hall.

MEAL ON THE GREEN

St Peter's Church invites you to the **Meal on the Green** on Saturday, 24th June from 7.15 p.m. to 11.30 p.m. This will follow the traditional format although this year it won't be on the same date as the Fete. There'll be a Pig Roast, a Vegetarian Option and Puddings and live music by Cooper Black.

The best-decorated table will

win a prize and there'll be a raffle with prizes which include champagne! Bring your own crockery, cutlery, glasses and table decorations and your own wine - or buy drinks from The Chequers (or both!).

Tickets: £10.00 for adults (12+), £5.00 for children (4 - 11, under fours free) available from Lucy on (01235) 868782.

NATIONAL MILLS DAY - MAY 14TH

Sunday, May 14th is National Mills Day and Charney Mill will be open to visitors from 2.00 to 5.00 p.m. Come and see "your" mill and the progress on the restoration work.

HEADLINES

- *Quiz your Council!*
- *Come and see your Mill!*
- *Grand Designs - Village Hall next!*
- *Look out for the light police!*
- *Chequers is booming!*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

County Council News	2
Your MP - Ed Vaizey	2
Deb's Charity Spot	3
The Chequers	3
Village College	3
Village Hall Project	3
Clerk's Corner	4

The **Village Coffee Hour** has resumed on Tuesday mornings from 10.30-11.30 in the Village Hall and continues until May 30th.

Do call in and chat. 50p buys you as much tea or coffee as you can drink - and there are biscuits too!

Deadline for copy for the next edition in July 2006: 20 June 2006

Contributions are welcome, in fact desperately needed! Adverts are free!

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

FROM YOUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR - MELINDA TILLEY

Road Investment: The County Council will spend £47m on road improvement and maintenance work in 2006/7 - £13.7m on road improvements and new facilities and £16.2m on planned maintenance. £17.5m from the Council's revenue budget will be spent on routine maintenance, street lighting, winter maintenance and other activities needed to keep the roads in good order.

Oxford Railway Station: The bus interchange at Oxford railway station has had its first makeover since the station was rebuilt almost ten years ago. New signage will make walking routes between the station, bus stops and city centre clearer, and will assist drivers in finding their way around the forecourt.

Eastern Bypass Barrier Work Completed Work to install a central safety barrier on the Oxford Eastern bypass was completed on 28 March and a 50mph limit on the whole of the Eastern bypass is now in effect.

On a lighter note - although I consider it very important - I had a motion to Council on the use of plain English in Council speech and documents. The motion was against all "Killer Jargon", "meaningless job titles", "annoying Acronyms" and "Bureaucratic Windbagery". It was passed unanimously so maybe now we can cut out needless jargon and make our documents user friendly.

Tel: 01865 820385 Fax: 01865 821493

E-mail: melinda.tilley@oxfordshire.gov.uk

FROM YOUR MP - ED VAIZEY

It is now roughly a year since you elected me as your MP in May 2005. Now might be a good time to review the year and make some kind of assessment - objective, of course!

First, some numbers: I have spoken in 25 debates, asked Ministers 35 questions, received around 2,500 e-mails and 3,000 constituents' letters, sat through 97 hours of Select Committee meetings, made about 150 speeches to groups ranging from local charities to the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and visited India, Sweden and America on Parliamentary business.

By itself, none of this means anything, of course. For me, the most satisfying and effective part of the job is simply being able to help people with their problems, ranging from tax credits, housing, schooling or any of the plethora of problems that an MP can help with.

As well as helping constituents' individual problems, I have been campaigning on a number of issues. Let's begin with the successes. The Park Child Psychiatry Hospital in Oxford has won a stay of execution after the Minister

saw sense during an Adjournment debate I held earlier this year. First Great Western has pulled back from some of the cuts it was trying to make to commuter services from Didcot, after meetings with Ministers and Parliamentary pressure. The scientific publishing industry that employs so many in our area is now more secure after a campaign to sustain investment in new technology.

However, there is still a lot to do. The NHS in Oxfordshire has a £25 million deficit; Grove and Didcot face the prospect of huge housing growth, which I oppose, and Thames Water are pushing ahead with plans for the reservoir.

As always, I can be contacted at The House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA, at vaizeye@parliament.uk or on 0207 219 6350. My website is at www.vaizey.com.

Next local surgeries are at the Civic Hall, Wantage May 12th and the Corn Exchange, Faringdon May 26th (both 5.30 to 7.00 p.m.).

Many thanks for all the kind letters I have received in the last year.

DEBBIE LITTLE'S CHARITY SPOT

Debbie's relentless efforts to raise funds to combat cancer continue unabated - where does she get the energy from?

Three events are looming up:-

1. A Mediaeval Banquet on Friday 12th May at The White Hart, Fyfield in aid of Against Breast Cancer. Cost £40 but the deadline for booking is about now - so hurry! *[I've seen the mouth-watering menu which is entirely appropriate to the setting and the era! - Ed.]*
2. A BBQ at The Cherwell Boat House in

Oxford on Friday 30th June in aid of Sobell House Hospice. Cost £38.50 plus a small charge for a seat on a coach going from Charney - so no parking or drink driving problems there then!!

3. Finally, a cheese and wine evening is being arranged for later in the Summer at Charney Manor - watch this space!

Info on these events from Deb Little (01235) 867539 - 7 Orchard Close, Charney Bassett or e-mail: little.family@virgin.net.

THE CHEQUERS - FROM CEILO AND BILL COLLINGS

The community of Charney Bassett has been very kind to us indeed! The support we receive and appreciation for our efforts are truly overwhelming! The CHAFT Charity Quiz Night was a huge success and before that, our Jazz Evening was the same. Thursday's Pensioners' Perks is busier each time and I have to say that, personally, it is our favourite day of the week as most of our diners are our neighbours and it makes the atmosphere very homey - like having family for lunch.

On March 31st we were featured in the Oxford Mail with the Pork Rack of Ribs headlining the story. Although it wasn't a perfect review (3/5 because of missed cutlery and forgotten sauces), the main issues were very

much to our favour. We came across as a friendly pub that served reasonably priced food and we intend to keep it that way! As for the other bits, we can only improve.

We are back on the full menu Sunday lunch-times as well as the Sunday Roast. Wednesday, there is always something new on the Specials Board. We will be open all day for the May Day Celebration and if we're still here for the Meal on the Green, we might even have a table! We are a community and family-oriented pub. Children are very much welcome anytime. Pets as well, even if sometimes, like Tigger, they forget to bring their humans! See you at The Chequers!

VILLAGE COLLEGE

The next sessions for Friday Yoga (6.45 to 8.15 p.m.) are:-

April 28, May 5th, 12th, 19th, and 26th,
June 2nd, 9th, 16th 23rd and 30th.

The next sessions for Friday Pilates (9.30 to 10.30 a.m.) are:-

April 21st and 28th, May 5th, 12th, and 26th,
June 2nd and 9th.

VILLAGE HALL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

CHAFT will reveal the proposed development of the Village Hall at its AGM which follows the Council meeting on 10th May.

Space does not permit a detailed description of the project but in the week before May 10th there will be a display of the proposals which involve replacement of the present vestibule to produce a more spacious hall in keeping with

the character of the original chapel with new kitchen space to the rear. There will be a new entrance with disabled access and toilets in place of the present kitchen area. Desperately needed extra storage space will be provided.

Come and see the display and let CHAFT have your comments on the proposals.

Lucy Gildersleeves, Secretary 868782