

PUBLISHED BY
CHARNEY BASSETT
PARISH COUNCIL

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 9th May 2007.

Editor: Peter Davies, Clerk

"Narrogin", Longworth Road
Phone: 868646

E-mail: p.g.davies@btpopenworld.com
www.charneybassettpc.org.uk

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, every third Wednesday in the month. For £4 you get a splendid meal, tea or coffee and a chat. Next date 16th May.

Piano Teacher

Liz Cowlam, piano teacher qualified to CT ABRSM gives local lessons. Preparation for exams if desired. Tel: 868318.

Village Hall Bookings

Village Hall bookings are now managed by Eunice Davies. Contact her for a booking form and conditions of hire, for the hall itself and the crockery and cutlery. Tel: 868646, e-mail: eunice.davies1@btinternet.com .

Outdoor Bowls

Now is the time to be thinking about your summer activities. Whatever your age, sex, commitment to exercise (or otherwise) why not try bowls? Just 2 miles up the road at Kingston Bagpuize/Southmoor is your local bowls club where you can enjoy hours of relaxing, carefree bowling on an "all weather" surface at anytime to suit yourself, every day of the week. Novices welcome as instruction will be given by our friendly members. If

you just want to socialise, we have a cosy clubhouse with bar and social events arranged throughout the summer. For a taster, visit on club night, Fridays, from 6.30 to 9.00 p.m. (from May 4th). Why not come and have a go, you have nothing to lose? Further details from Mike or Yvonne Cox, Gable End, New Road, Tel: 868276.

CLET

Charney and Lyford Education Trust, CLET, supports a range of educational projects, with grants awarded both to individuals and to the community in Charney Bassett and Lyford. Applications will be considered by the Trustees who meet in January, May and September. For further details please contact the Clerk: Mrs Frances Rothwell, "Oldwalls", Buckland Road, Tel: 868704 e-mail: fc.rothwell@tiscali.co.uk.

CHAFT dates for your diaries

May Day celebrations (May 7th), Annual General Meeting (May 9th), Jazz and Musical Soiree (May 19th), Charney Feast (July 7th), Breast cancer/CHAFT Walk (September 15th).

May Day Celebrations

Calling all children! Crowning of the May Queen on the Village Green at 2.30 p.m. Monday May 7th, followed by maypole dancing. Dancing practices 5.00 p.m. Tuesday May 1st and Thursday May 3rd.

EDITORIAL

You've no doubt noticed that it's local council election time and this year your parish councillors have completed their four-year term of office and an election is needed. However, although the election is not until May 3rd, we already know the result, as when nominations closed on 11th April, only the five existing councillors had put their names forward. They have therefore been elected unopposed and will serve four more years.

During this term the Council will apply for Quality Status. The Quality Parish and Town Council Scheme was launched in 2003 with the aim of providing a minimum standard for parish and town councils across the country. Quality councils are expected to:

- be representative of and actively involve all parts of their community
- be effectively and properly managed, with members and officers upholding a high standard of conduct
- work closely with voluntary and community groups with effective communications.

LITTER

If you ever find roadside litter which identifies the offender, give it to The Clerk who will pass it to Waste Management at the Vale Council. Two such offenders can expect letters

- work in partnership with other local authorities to deliver local services giving the best deal for the local community.

The Council must meet certain criteria which include having a qualified Clerk. This is now the case with the awarding of a Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA) in February. In achieving this, The Clerk did most of the work needed to show the Council meets the Quality criteria.

Among these criteria is the requirement to publish an Annual Report and this is printed on page 2.

The new Council will meet for the first time on May 9th. There will be two Council meetings on the same evening. First the AGM to elect its officers followed by the Annual Assembly at which the public has an opportunity to join in the Council's deliberations. Why not come along and tell the Council what you expect of it over the next four years?

The CHAFT AGM follows the Annual Assembly.

from them very shortly! And if you smoke a lot of Richmond King Size and regularly throw the empty packet out of your car window in Longworth Road - **STOP IT!!**

HEADLINES

- *Council reports on 2006/7 activities.*
- *Still no bobby!*
- *Mill open on 13 May*
- *Soiree 19th May*
- *Weathervanes wanted!*
- *Slavery in Charney!*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Annual Report	2
Neighbourhood Watch	3
Police Matters	3
Charney Mill	4
Handicrafts Group	4
Charney Army	4
Mothers and Toddlers	5
CHAFT Update	5
Feast	6
Politician's Page	7
Adverts & Events	8

Coffee Hour has resumed in the Village Hall on Tuesdays (10.30-11.30) and continues until 29 May.

Call in and chat. 50p buys you as much tea or coffee as you can drink - with biscuits too!

Deadline for copy for the next edition in July 2007: 20 June 2007

This issue is a bumper double issue but don't expect this every time, unless of course, you send me lots of copy! Adverts are free!

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

COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2006/07

This report covers the period from 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007. It is a summary of the activities of your Parish Council over this period, the decisions made on your behalf and the way your money from the Council Tax was spent in maintaining the environment in which you live.

The Council meets bi-monthly on the second Wednesday of the odd-numbered months at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall. There are five councillors, whose names appear at the end of this report and during the period, all the councillors either attended all six meetings of the council or made acceptable apologies for absence. Actual average attendance of councillors was four and average public attendance was eight.

Council expenditure comes from a precept on the Vale of White Horse District Council (VWHDC), which derives its income from the Council Tax. In the period under review the precept was £2,300 and grants and VAT refunds added £458 to the Council's income. Main items of expenditure were grass cutting (£1,114), insurance (£260), improvements to Charney Field (£310) and street cleaning (£247). Council administration, which includes internal (£60) and external auditing (£141), maintenance of the village web site (£93), printing Charney Chatter (£84) and membership subscriptions to CPRE (£25), Oxon Association of Local Councils (£120) and Oxon Playing Field association (£30) accounted for £669. The Council has a policy of supporting charities which can demonstrate a direct link to the village. Accordingly, donations of £30 each were made to Abingdon Citizens Advice Bureau, Oxon Association for the Blind, South and Vale Carers, Hanney Royal British Legion and the Independent Advice Centre, Wantage.

Although it is not the planning authority for the village (the Vale of White Horse Council is), your Council was invited to comment on five planning applications during the year of which one was for the Village Hall development and the others were extensions or conservatories, none of which raised any council objections.

As well as planning consultation, the Council receives a number of invitations to comment on other aspects of local government. In the past year these have included the Statement of Community Involvement from VWHDC, The Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Development Framework, various aspects of the Draft South East Plan, including the Provision of Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites, the Regional Housing Strategy, The Upper Thames Major Resource Development (Steventon Reservoir) and Amendments to the Model Code of Conduct for Local Authority Members. These provide opportunities for your Council to ensure the best interests of the village are looked after.

Perhaps the most vital role of the Council is to maintain and protect the village environment. To this end as well as spending nearly half the precept on grass cutting, it employs a street cleaner who is responsible for litter-picking to supplement the efforts of VWHDC contractors. In addition, it is fortunate to be able to call upon the services of the Charney Army. This is an ad hoc collection of mainly retired people, including three councillors and The Clerk, who carry out tasks within the village to improve the environment. Their work during the past year included work on trees, the willow arbour and goalposts on Charney Field, repair and maintenance of railings, fences and seats around the village and the provision of a footway in Longworth

POLITICIAN'S PAGE

From Ed Vaizey MP

I hope many of you were able to enjoy an Easter break. Parliament had two weeks off, and came back in the middle of April. The first Bill discussed was the Mental Health Bill.

I have a strong interest in issues relating to mental health. I became very involved in this difficult and complex subject when campaigning to save the Park Hospital in Oxford, a specialist unit treating children with mental health issues. I have since gone on to found the all-party group for Samaritans, who do so much good work with people suffering with mental health issues. As I have got more involved I have been told time and time again how mental health was viewed as somehow of secondary importance and a lower priority than other areas of healthcare. Therefore I hope that the new mental health bill will be the first step to redressing this imbalance.

The bill is huge but there are two main areas that I think are of particular interest. Firstly, and quite controversially, people who are deemed a risk to others because of their mental health can be detained even if they

have not committed a crime. I am very uncomfortable with this. As well as being an encroachment on our civil liberties it will have the knock-on effect of meaning that many people with mental illnesses will be fearful of presenting themselves for treatment. This can only result in a deterioration of their condition.

Secondly, the bill will do nothing to address the difficulties faced by young people with mental illness. Young Minds, the charity that nominated me for a Charity Champion award after my work on the Park Hospital, estimate that around 1,000 children a year are currently admitted to adult mental health wards. This neglect of highly vulnerable children is unacceptable, yet the new act will do nothing to increase provision of children's mental health services. I will continue to campaign for children with mental illnesses; it is time these young people were pushed up the political agenda.

Next Grove surgery: 25th May 5.30 – 7.00 pm

Contact details: House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA, Tel: 0207 219 6350.

e-mail: vaizeye@parliament.uk.

From County Councillor Melinda Tilley

At the Council AGM Liz Brighthouse was elected Chairman for the year and Tony Crabb Deputy Chairman. There were some changes to the Cabinet and Committee places. Full details can be seen on the OCC web site at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk.

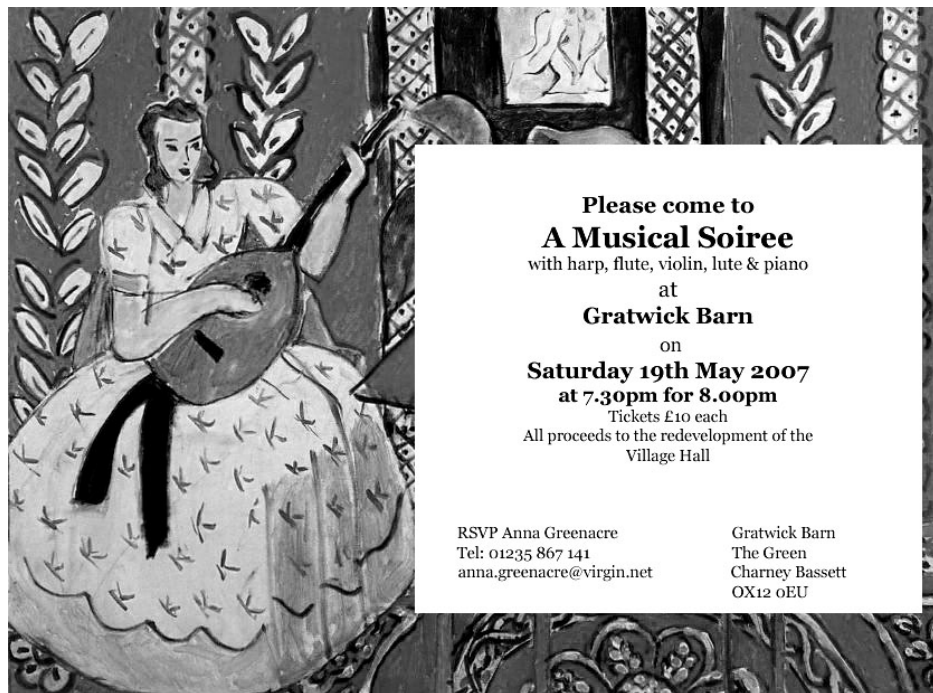
The County has received several million pounds for road improvements from a Central Government pot. It always sounds a lot to me, but actually goes nowhere when you are talking road repairs. However, some of our roads will get the potholes filled in.

In the last couple of months, the County faced

the Unitary bid from Oxford City Council which proposed abolishing the County Council. This was quite upsetting to people who had worked very hard to ensure the County reached its "Excellent" rating from the Audit Commission. The Office for Communities and Local Government (formerly the ODPM) have rejected the City's request for Unitary status, so the problem has gone away for the moment. However, all councils in Oxfordshire have been told that we have to work more closely together to supply services and make savings.

Tel: 01865 820385

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



**Please come to
A Musical Soiree**
with harp, flute, violin, lute & piano
at
Gratwick Barn
on
Saturday 19th May 2007
at 7.30pm for 8.00pm
Tickets £10 each
All proceeds to the redevelopment of the
Village Hall

RSVP Anna Greenacre Tel: 01235 867 141 anna.greenacre@virgin.net	Gratwick Barn The Green Charney Bassett OX12 0EU
--	---

Our Arts Correspondent writes:- *“This has got to be the concert bargain of the summer - and with a very local flavour! The Assistant Leader of the Halle Orchestra will be playing the violin together with three musicians from the village. The music will include two pieces specially composed for the event. All this for the modest sum of £10.00 which includes wine and canapés to feast on!”*

CHARNEY FEAST

Charney Feast will be held on Saturday, July 7th from 1.00 to 4.00 p.m. on the Village Green (and in the Paddock by kind permission of the Buchanans), followed in the evening by the traditional Meal-on-the-Green.

Full details of what will be on offer are contained in the advert in Cherbury News, so there's no need to repeat them here.

The success of the fete will depend not only on support on the day but in the donation of things to sell and, of course, help for setting up gazebos etc. If you can help in any way, contact **Lucy Gildersleeves on 868782**.

One very important item to mention though is the theme for this year's Feast - it's weathervanes. These should be in place by 23rd June for judging for a prize.

Road to aid the safety of pedestrians on a dangerous stretch of road.

During the year The Clerk assembled a portfolio of council documents in support of an application for the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CILCA). The application was successful and your Council is now one of six out of 317 parish and town councils in Oxfordshire with a Clerk holding this qualification. The Council has now decided to proceed to the next step in this process which is

the attainment of Quality Council Status. There are currently only four councils in Oxfordshire which have this prestigious Status, three of which are towns and only one a parish council.

Peter G Davies, Clerk to the Parish Council

Councillors: Geoff Beer (Chairman), Jim Harper (Vice-chairman), John Stiles, Geoff Rumble, Joycelyn Bath.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

I recently received a call in reply to a message I left a while ago on the answer phone of the Watch office. We have been without a Vale contact person at the office since December and I wanted to know the position in regard to filling this vacancy so that I could inform everyone of the situation. Also, there is no-one directly responsible for the Ringmaster service to the NW representatives at the moment and this service is being maintained by the one person in the office (when there should be three). She explained that she doesn't know our district well as she is responsible for South Oxfordshire but has been trying to keep things on track. However, information about a series of burglaries in the Hanneys was not passed on to us and I only

heard by word of mouth that seven burglaries had taken place and that some people had been apprehended.

I asked why this position had remained empty for so long and was informed that the role was jointly funded by the Police and the Vale Council and the latter has withheld their part of the funding so far. The job will be advertised shortly (hopefully) but it will be several more months before a replacement is in place.

With the situation regarding the loss of our local policeman running alongside this I wonder if the people of our villages are being adequately and fairly served.

Margaret Roberts, Village Co-ordinator

POLICE MATTERS

As Margaret mentions above, we still do not have a local bobby to "look after" our village. After this situation was discovered almost by accident way back at the start of the year, I have endeavoured to put pressure on Thames Valley Police (involving our MP) to no avail. The only action taken so far is a meeting arranged with Inspector Matt Bullivant at Wantage on May 1st at which I will hear

what, if anything, is planned. I will report the outcome to the Annual Assembly.

An example of how badly we miss PC Martyn Holder is a recent incident where a bullet was fired from a distance at a house in the village. The two WPCs who attended asked "What do you want us to do about it?" Martyn would have known who did it!

Editor

CHARNEY MILL - SLAVERY IN CHARNEY BASSETT

Readers may not know that in 1086 when William the Conqueror commissioned a survey of his new realm, there were five slaves recorded in Charney. These would have been indigenous people, not from a far off land. The Domesday Book, as this survey is popularly known, was not a census, it counted heads of households, not the composition of the household. It also listed material assets such as plough teams, woods, fisheries, etc. and tellingly for us, watermills. Because of this survey we know that Charney had no mill in 1086. So how did the villagers process their grain to produce bread? It was done with hand-operated querns and was the work of women. If the household contained a female slave then that would have been her task. It took many hours to produce enough flour for

a large household and female skeletons in the archaeological record clearly display the deformities associated with the work.

About the year 1130 a mill is recorded in the Chronicles of Abingdon Abbey, the owners of Charney. Concern for the plight of women, slave or free, was not the reason the monks built the mill. As holders of the village and land, etc. the Abbey had the power to force the villagers to use their new mill and, of course, charge them to do so.

These days there is no charge to attend at the mill and you may do so on National Mills Day, Sunday 13th May, between 2pm and 5pm. Donations though will be welcome.

Bruce Hedge

GROVE HANDICRAFTS GROUP

Grove Handicrafts Group meets on Monday afternoons in the Cornerstone Café to undertake a wide variety of crafts, including, of course, knitting. A long-term project is the production of knitted items for children in Romania by the ladies of the Group and friends from the area, including Charney Bassett.

Last month a consignment, delivered by John and Margaret Willemsen of Grove to the despatch centre at Worthing, included 239 jumpers, 21 blankets, 127 hats, 52 pairs of mittens and a box of baby clothes. Four Charney Bassett residents, Eunice Davies,

Marian Gardiner, Jill Hook and Julie Rumble contributed to this mammoth effort. In addition, 59 knitted teddies were taken by Rev. Joan Impey of Harwell to the charity Hope and Aid Direct for children in Kosovo.

The Group is very grateful to all who made this possible by knitting or sewing or crocheting or by donating yarn. Double knitting yarn is still needed to continue this work so if you have some you can donate, please contact me on 01235 868646 or e-mail me on eunice.davies1@btinternet.com and I'll arrange collection.

Eunice Davies

CHARNEY ARMY

Charney Army continues to meet for two hours on the second and last Thursday mornings in the month to undertake work to improve the village environment. If you enjoy working outdoors and chatting, why not join us? Send your e-mail address or telephone number to the Editor and you will automatically get reminders of the meetings and where to meet.

MOTHERS AND TODDLERS

Mothers and Toddlers meet on Monday mornings of term time in Charney Bassett Village Hall. We gather informally, Mums and Carers responsible for their own pre-school children. You are welcome from 9.45-11.15 a.m. for play, craft, a snack-coffee break and singing.

Each family pays £1.50 each time they come and the children are enjoying the lovely equipment gathered by a previous group, some of which was bought by our local charity, Charney and Lyford Education Trust.

Marian Gardiner Tel: 868319

CHAFT UPDATE

A generous donation of a children's picnic bench has been made for the play area on Charney Field. The donor wishes to remain anonymous but gifts such as this are much appreciated and help improve the facility and make it more family friendly.

Many thanks to Frances, Gordon and Sally for their considerable help in giving the Hall a thorough clean - up to the rafters and down to the floor - it will be interesting to know if the absence of spiders' webs is noticed!

With a view to adding to the kitchen resources both for our own use and to be available to villagers, I have donated a quantity of dinner plates and dessert dishes (80 each). These are from Jane Fry and match the cups, saucers, tea and dessert plates we previously purchased from her. If there are any other items you feel would be useful as part of our inventory, could you please let me know.

To help with our money-raising efforts, Jash and I have invited our friends and neighbours in Orchard Close to support a number of lunches. Our first was held on 31 March and raised a total of £212 (including gift-aid and an additional donation). We have another

two/three such events planned during the summer months. This is a way of involving people as a group and we hope will encourage them to become more interested in what we are doing.

We are still awaiting responses from: The Big Lottery (£181,000+), Oxford County Council (£7,500 towards disability access costs) NPower (£1,000 as 3rd party for the TOE application), TOE (£10,000 towards efficient energy systems - dependent on the NPower outcome), DTA (£10,000 - application will be submitted when results of NPower and TOE submissions are known). Additionally, we have submitted a request to the Gannett Foundation for £1,000 to help the regeneration of the copse on the field.

Thanks to everyone for their various efforts in connection with the Hall and Field, and to the Charney Army for their invaluable help when practical things need to be done - it has been an exceptionally busy year for us all.

A reminder that our AGM follows the Parish Assembly on Wednesday 9th May.

Elisabeth Dahele

CHARNEY FIELD

Have you put forward your suggestions for the five-year plan for adding to the facilities on Charney Field? It's not too late for your ideas to be considered. Those put forward

will be on display in the Village Hall on Monday May 7th.

Lucy Gildersleeves Tel: 868782