

# Charney Chatter

NUMBER 24

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**PUBLISHED BY  
CHARNEY BASSETT  
PARISH COUNCIL**

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## 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 14th November 2007.**

## 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 from the sale of these cards go 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 21st November but no Diner in December.

### Piano Teacher

Liz Cowlam, experienced Piano Teacher qualified to CT ABRSM. Preparation for exams if desired. Tel: 868318.

### Village Hall Bookings

Contact Eunice Davies on 868646 for a booking form and conditions of hire, both for the Hall itself and the crockery and cutlery.

### Help wanted to keep the Church shiny!

Could you spare a short time each month to polish the brass items in St Peter's Church? Items include several candlesticks, vases and a cross. Polish and cloths can be provided! If you can help or would like more information, please call Tracey Burge on 868897.

### Something to look forward to when it's cold & dark!

When you get hold of your 2008 diary, please pencil in the Charney Church Fête for 21 June and the Meal on the Green for 12 July. More details and timings to follow nearer the dates!

### Newspapers

The Log Cabin at Southmoor has started a newspaper round in Charney Bassett and delivery charges are cheaper than Rowe's!

### Christmas Bring and Buy Coffee Morning.

The annual St Peter's Church Christmas Bring and Buy Coffee Morning will be held in the Village Hall on Saturday 24th November from 10.00 a.m. to Noon. Do drop in during the morning for handy present bargains and refreshments. If you have any nice items you could give us to sell, please let Tracey Burge know on 868897.

### Sobell House Charity Cards

Christmas cards in aid of Sobell House Charity will be on sale at Coffee Hour on Tuesday, 30th October from 10.30 to 11.30 a.m. All welcome - bring your friends (and your purses!).

## THE MILLSTREAM AT CHARNEY

Earlier this year I wrote about the building of the present watermill in 1807. However, there has been a watermill at Charney for almost 900 years. It is first mentioned in the records of Abingdon Abbey, the owners of the manor of Charney, in the period 1130 to 1135. No one knows how many different mill buildings there have been but they will all have stood in about the same position.

In order to have a water supply to drive the mill it was necessary to cut a course for a millstream from the river Ock at a point about three quarters of a mile upstream. The carrying out of that work would have presented few problems for Abingdon's monks for some 170 years earlier they had engineered a millstream to their abbey from the Thames. Realignment of the Ock in 1974 turned the flow of water away from our mill again and diverted it south to something like its pre-1100 AD

course. The first 300 yards of the old millstream stream were subsequently filled in.

There are several documents mentioning a mill in Charney over the centuries. The most important one is an estate map of 1765 clearly showing the course of the millstream, the mill itself and two large ponds upstream for impounding water.

The remnants of those ponds can still be seen today either side of the bridge carrying the road to Denchworth. What is not shown in 1765 is any bridge; it appears to have been a ford at that time.

Other interesting features on the map are the two long narrow fishponds in the triangle of land between the millstream and the river just downstream of the mill itself, evidence of the importance of fresh fish at a time before refrigeration and long-distance travel of foodstuffs.

**Bruce Hedge**

## FIRST AID TRAINING

CHAFT and The Village College are organising a First Aid training day with St John Ambulance to cover basic and emergency first aid suitable for those stewarding at local riding events and working with children.

This will take place on one Wednesday in the Village Hall. Up to 12 students are required to run the course which will cost £25 per head. Suggested dates are 7th, 14th or 21st November.

Contact Lucy Gildersleeves ASAP on 868782

## HEADLINES

- *Village Hall Project re-scheduled.*
- *Ed Vaizey lays out flood programme.*
- *Neighbourhood Action Group officers named.*

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**Coffee Hour** sessions in the Village Hall on Tuesdays (10.30-11.30) have resumed and run until 11th December. Call in and chat. 50p buys you as much tea or coffee as you can drink - with biscuits too!  
**Special one on 30th October - see page 6**

Deadline for copy for the next edition in January 2008: 20 December 2007  
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

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

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## VILLAGE HALL PROJECT UPDATE

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The Trust for Oxfordshire Environment (TOE) Board has discussed The Village Hall Project and continues to show a lot of interest. However, with a large amount of funding still to be found, it did not wish to commit funds to the project as it is. They suggested that if the project was phased they would be able to commit funds to a phase of the project where the match funding has been secured rather than to the complete project with a funding shortfall. As a result of this suggestion, the Hall Working Party came up with the two-phase proposal below which has been submitted to the project architect, Anderson Orr, who agreed its feasibility.

Phase I is based on the need to achieve the best outcome in terms of space and impact in the main hall. Since the kitchen and storage rooms are an integral part of the build for the extension they are included but only finished to a minimum requirement. The external store will be converted temporarily to a toilet until funds are available to build a new entrance hall. Talks are continuing with Thames Valley Energy on two options for heating the building - either a Ground Source Heat Pump or, alternatively, an Air-source Heat Pump. Estimated cost for Phase I is £80K-£90K.

Phase II comprises everything else and its estimated cost is £30K-£40K

In order to cover the Phase I costs of £80K-

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## ALTERNATIVE THERAPY DAY

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Rona Bennett - Village College Pilates Group tutor - has suggested an "Alternative Therapy Day" as a way to raise funds for the Village Hall Project. There seems to be enthusiastic support for this suggestion which might also include other interest activities to widen the appeal. The event is not intended to be for women only - and we would hope to widen the scope beyond Charney and Lyford.

£90K we need to be successful in all our pending applications (i.e. £50K from TOE, £7,500 from OCC and £5,000 from VWHDC). Together with the money in the CHAFT account this amounts to around £75K with the balance still to be raised. All figures exclude VAT and we are in discussion with the VAT office to determine the best way to handle this. Any decision from TOE will be subject to final costings but with a favourable decision from them in principle, the next stage would be for Anderson Orr to prepare detailed working drawings and put the project out to tender, say mid-November, with returns requested for early-January. This would mean the possibility of starting work February/March 2008.

In the meanwhile, we have confirmation from OCC that they continue to hold £7,500 towards our project but they are looking for reassurance that we will start work before the end of their financial year (end March 2008) as the money is allocated from their 2007/8 budget. We hope we can achieve this.

The VWHDC Executive Committee has agreed the £5,000 3rd party sponsorship for our TOE application. Our application for an additional grant of £5,000 towards the efficient energy systems awaits a decision.

**Elisabeth Dahele**

Likely dates will be either the weekend of January 26/27 or February 23/24 2008. If you are interested in joining in the fun then please make a note now.

Marian Gardiner and Frances Rothwell will be working with Rona on the organisation side. CHAFT will publicise full details when there is a firm date - watch this space!

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## CHARNEY FIELD UPDATE

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The campaign waged by the Charney Army to defeat the relentless white poplars has been successful with only some minor pockets of resistance (stumps) left. One of the two "stumperies" has been removed.

A contract has been placed with Anna Moffat of Woodbridge Nurseries, Longworth to level the ground ready for planting during the winter months, then apply herbicide in the Spring. Don't forget the invitation contained in the last issue to sponsor a tree.

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## BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS

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The CHAFT Bonfire and Fireworks will be held on the Field on Sunday 4th November with the bonfire lit at 5.15 p.m. There'll be a hot dog, home-made soup and cake included in the ticket price of £6.50 for adults and £3.50 for children 3-13, available from Kay

Adamson (868599). There'll also be the usual pumpkin competition. Access to the Field for the event will be by ticket only. Combustible garden rubbish can be left in the designated area ready for the bonfire.

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## ST PETER'S FAMILY QUIZ NIGHT

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The St Peter's Family Quiz Night filled the Chequers on Sunday 21st October. Ten teams, including a lively contribution from 'The Bartenders' (spotted having a sneaky warm-up on Trivial Pursuit in the pub earlier in the afternoon!), battled for top place. A couple nearly blew their chances of completing the mystery fruits and vegetables round by eating the evidence at the start. The Natterjacks&jills (Sue and Tony Wales, Val and Tim Rose and Joyce Ferguson) stormed into an early lead with a good

tactical Joker and looked set to maintain pole position, but by half-time the field was catching up. With most teams jockeying for second place, 'Not-a-cluedo' (Burgess and Silvers) quietly overhauled the Natterjacks&jills, finishing on 184 to their 173.5. The Best Joker prize went to 'Giveusaclue' (Townsend and friends). A grand total of £258 was raised for church funds. Many thanks to Dave and Heather for hosting us and for laying on the brainfood at half-time.

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## CLET

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Charney and Lyford Education Trust, CLET, supports a range of educational projects, with grants awarded both to individuals under the age of 25 and to the community in Charney Bassett and Lyford.

Applications will be considered by the Trustees who meet in January, May and September. Details from the Clerk: Frances Rothwell, "Oldwalls", Buckland Road, Tel: 868704 E-mail: [fc.rothwell@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:fc.rothwell@tiscali.co.uk).

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## 100 CLUB WINNERS

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September:- The Peters Family (118) £25, Merryn Vickers (119) £10. October:- John Daghish (23) £25, Dave Roberts (95) £10.

Contact Geoff and Julie Rumble (868738) to join.

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## NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION GROUP - UPDATE

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Faringdon East Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG2, not NAG9 as reported in the previous issue) held its first formal meeting at Faringdon Police Station on 4th October and again Dave Sibbert and Peter Davies represented the village. Ray Woodyear, Area Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator for the Hanneys was elected Chairman and Peter Davies Minute Taker.

Attendance was, frankly, disappointing, not to say pathetic, with only the Hanneys and Charney seeming to take this initiative seriously. Efforts to get more villages involved will be made through publicity by Thames Valley Police and NAG2 in the coming months. It is disappointing to have such little interest shown when there seems to be a general undercurrent of muttering about police performance in rural areas and yet when this opportunity to influence their thinking arises, most villages in this area seem indifferent. Maybe they've given up on the police but I hope not.

The results of public consultation and a pilot questionnaire in the Hanneys to determine the priority crime and community safety issues were presented. Top issue in both the public and the Hanney consultations was

speeding, with anti-social behaviour second and theft/burglary third. More consultations are planned to refine the data but the police are already on notice to come up with strategies to deal with them.

Consultation with Charney residents is on the cards and this would be done through Neighbourhood Watch. Meanwhile, do these three priorities line up with your views of what the police need to be tackling? If not, tell Dave on 868734 or Peter on 868646.

Thames Valley Police personnel allocated to NAG2 have been named. The Neighbourhood Specialist Officer (NSO) overseeing NAG2 is Paul Rowland and the local bobby or Neighbourhood Response Officer (NRO) is Phil Redmond (but you already knew that didn't you!). There are two Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs), Myra Stokes and Dave Clarke both of whom have been seen regularly in the village, on their bikes!

To contact any of these officers, ring the police non-emergency number 0845 8 505 505 (but you already knew that didn't you!) and ask for them by name. If they are on duty you'll speak to them, if they're not, a message will be forwarded to them.

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## THE CHEQUERS

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The long-term future of The Chequers has still not been decided. David and Heather Wheeler have continued to hold the fort while Brakspears search for permanent tenants. Despite pleading from those villagers who use the pub and have sampled the delights of Heather's cooking and enjoyed David's sense of humour, they are adamant that there is no prospect of them staying long-term.

There is no specific information on how Brakspears' search is getting on but at least two couples have expressed an interest and have spent some time casing the joint! Whether or not this interest results in new tenants remains to be seen. There is still a feeling in some quarters, including from people with knowledge of the trade, that the investment up-front which newcomers will need to find is too high.

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## FROM YOUR MP - ED VAIZEY

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At the beginning of October, we had a meeting about the impact of the July floods. Hundreds of people turned up to the Old Mill Hall in Grove, to hear from the Environment Agency and from Thames Water. Many of you may have read my views on the floods in my Westminster Report already. I am putting forward a clear programme of action which I think the Government needs to address urgently.

First, I think the Environment Agency needs greater powers. I think we should consider whether they should be able to veto any development on the flood plain which could increase flood risk in any significant manner. When I put this forward at the meeting, it got a lot of support.

Second, we should look at whether it is possible to give grants to homeowners who want to fit flood defences. The easiest and most effective solution, provided the flood water is not too high or coming through the ground, is a removable barrier across the door. We already give grants to people who wish to insulate their homes. At the very least, councils should issue clear guidance when they send out council tax bills.

Third, we should look at whether farmers could play a role. Again, they already get

grants for environmental stewardship. Perhaps the definition could be widened to include ditch digging and clearance. Farmers know the local land well and could put in place sensible measures.

Fourth, I will be trying to find out what help insurers could give. At the moment, premiums are going up hugely, but insurers still face big payouts if homeowners are not protected.

Finally, and it pains me to say this, the island villages it seems will take second place to large urban centres like Oxford and Abingdon. It is very much up to us to organise ourselves, and local parish councils should organise flood defence groups. These could ask key questions and take action when necessary. For example, is it worth some villages keeping a bank of sand ready to use in an emergency? Could the parish help individual homeowners with flood defence?

This is said to have been a once in a lifetime event. I hope if it becomes a more frequent occurrence, a combination of Government and local action will prevent such devastation happening again.

**Next local Surgery Date:** 9th November 2007 at Faringdon Corn Exchange from 5.30 pm until 7pm

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## DO TALK ABOUT ZEE WAR!!

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Would you like your memories to be included in The Second World War Experience Centre's oral history archive? The Centre records the personal experiences of anyone who lived through the war years to preserve their stories for future generations. The Centre's website is at [www.war-experience.org](http://www.war-experience.org).

Recollections are tape recorded during an informal conversation and then sent to the Centre for transcribing and inclusion in the

archive, which is accessible to researchers and is also used by veterans groups and historical societies.

More than 4000 people have been interviewed to date, including your Editor (yes, I'm that old!), who found the experience illuminating! For more information, contact Matthew Smaldon, Tel: (01235) 526734  
E-mail: [matthew.smaldon@gmail.com](mailto:matthew.smaldon@gmail.com)