

**Your councillors:-**

Geoff Rumble (Chairman), Buckland Road 868738  
Jim Harper (Vice-chairman), Barnfield 868288  
Jos Bath, Buckland Road 868260  
Mike Cox, New Road 868276

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

**The next meeting, the Annual Parish Assembly, is on 13th May 2009**

**ADVERTS AND EVENTS**

**Personalised Home-made Cards**

Can't find the right card for that special occasion? Eunice will make one for you. Ring her on 868646. Proceeds (over £100 to date) to the Village Hall Project.

**Village Hall Bookings**

Contact Eunice Davies on 868646 for hire of the Hall, crockery, cutlery and the gazebos.

**Table Tennis**

Interested in playing table tennis in the Village Hall? Contact Dave Sibbert on 868734 for more details.

**Great British Fish and Chip Supper – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2009**

Want to do something different? Want to raise money where you live or work? Want to eat Fish and Chips, while raising money for charity? Hold a fish and chip supper on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2009 whilst raising awareness of spinal cord injury and supporting Spinal Injuries Association's information and support services. Visit [www.spinal.co.uk](http://www.spinal.co.uk) for more details.

**Charney Bassett and Lyford Educational Trust (CLET)**

CLET supports a range of educational projects, with grants awarded both to individuals under the age of 25 and to community groups 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, Charney Bassett, Tel: 868704, E-mail: [fc.rothwell@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:fc.rothwell@tiscali.co.uk)

The next meeting of the CLET Trustees will be on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2009. Forms for applications to be considered at this meeting may be obtained from the Clerk and should be returned to her as soon as possible.

**Boys' Football**

Charney are starting an U-12's Football Team that will play in the Oxford Mail Boys League on Sunday mornings next season 2009/2010. Any children interested in playing, please contact Bernard Townsend on 01235 868181, Mobile: /07747 094351 or Mr D Kitchen on 07823 446757.

**The Chequers**

Husnu and Roberta at the Chequers have introduced a new lunchtime special menu served from noon to 2.00 p.m., Tuesday to Saturday. One course is only £5.95, two are £8.95 and three £9.95. This is excellent value for quality food. Do support your local pub!

**Dews Meadow Farm, East Hanney Open Days:**

Friday 22nd May - 8.30 am - 8.00 p.m.  
Saturday 23rd May - 8.30 am - 5.00 pm  
Savour the flavour of Dews Meadow Farm products! Bouncy Castle for Children.  
[www.dewsmeadowfarm.co.uk](http://www.dewsmeadowfarm.co.uk)  
Tel: 01235 868634

# Charney Chatter

NUMBER 33

MAY 2009

**CHARNEY ARMY PRESENTS ARMS**



Making a change from hard labour, the Charney Army meeting on 8th April was a "master class" in pruning, conducted by David Rees of the Oxfordshire Woodlands Project, which the parish council has recently joined. David demonstrated how to prune the trees in the spinney at the south side of Charney Field and showed how the commercial management of woodland does not conflict with being green and eco-friendly.

In the picture, armed with pruning equipment and keen to practise their newly-acquired skills are (L to R): Geoff Rumble, Mike Welham, Derek McClintock, John Daglish, David Nellist, Stephanie Wright, Peter Davies and John Wright.

**MAY DAY BANK HOLIDAY  
CELEBRATIONS ON THE VILLAGE GREEN**

Monday May 4<sup>th</sup> at 2.30 p.m.

All are welcome to join in our afternoon of music and dance. Come and welcome this year's May Queen, Miss Sarah Burge, as she arrives with her attendants by horse and carriage. Sarah will be crowned by Mrs. Yvonne Hobbs and the children will dance around the maypole. Teas will be served in aid of the Village Hall Project. Donations of cakes for teas are very welcome. Bring a picnic rug or your folding chairs to be sure of a seat.

**CALLING CHILDREN ....**

Maypole dancing practices on The Green (if wet, in the Hall)  
Tuesday April 28<sup>th</sup> at 4.15 p.m.....Thursday April 30<sup>th</sup> at 4.15 p.m.  
Information: Marian Gardiner 868319 or Diane Ewart 868103

**HEADLINES**

- *Come Dancing - on the Village Green!*
- *Watch out - there are thieves about!*
- *Village Hall Project shortfall.*
- *Council vacancy*
- *Reservoir deferred.*

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**Coffee Hour** in the Village Hall on Tuesdays (10.30-11.30) has resumed and will continue as long as the Hall remains open. Call in and chat. 50p buys you as much tea or coffee as you can drink - with biscuits too! Everyone welcome.

Deadline for copy for the next edition in July 2009: 20 June 2009

Contributions are welcome, preferably by e-mail. Adverts are free!

Charney Chatter can be e-mailed free to anyone giving their e-mail address to the Editor  
It's already international with copies going to France, Australia, Japan and Wales!

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

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## NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION GROUP - NAG2

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The Neighbourhood policing team at Faringdon, part of NAG2 is being re-organised and there's a lack of news from them this month. Meanwhile, here are some messages from the Neighbourhood Watch team at Abingdon which are worth reporting more widely:-

In the latter part of March, thefts of artefacts from gardens occurred in Faringdon, Shrivenham, Stowhill, Childrey and The Row, Pusey. Items stolen included concrete troughs and an antique urn.

The Police are warning people not to leave anything of value in their vehicles. There has been an increase in thefts from vehicles, particularly in beauty spots, such as White Horse Hill and The Ridgeway. Criminals are targeting car parks and are breaking in to vehicles to find valuables stored under seats or

in boots. Please ensure you remove everything of value from your vehicle and secure your vehicle properly. Don't become a victim or give criminals an easy opportunity.

We have recently seen a number of reports of break-ins and burglaries from sheds, outbuildings and garages. Please make sure you don't give thieves the opportunity to get into your shed. Put all tools and equipment away and keep your shed locked when it's not being used. Fit a strong pad-bar or hasp and staple with a close-shackled padlock to your shed door. Consider a shed alarm - battery operated alarms cost around £10. This could ensure you do not lose any of the valuable tools etc. that you may keep in your shed. If you require further crime reduction advice, please collect a "Secure your Sheds, Garages and Outbuildings" booklet from your local Police Station front desk.

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## PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY

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Mr. John Stiles has resigned from the parish council, thus creating a vacancy for a councillor to fill his place. This vacancy will now be advertised on the village Notice Board. Should no-one come forward, the vacancy will be filled by co-option.

However, should ten people be so minded, they may request an election to fill the vacancy and this will be uncontested if the number of nominations equals or is less than the number of vacancies.

As Mrs. Jos Bath has indicated that she would like to retire from the council "in the near future", there could be two vacancies to be filled by an election, which would make it worthwhile.

"Why hold an election?", I hear you ask. The reason is that as Mr. Mike Cox is a co-opted member, John Stiles' resignation means there are actually only three elected councillors and we have therefore lost our status as a Quality Council, the criterion for which is that 80%, or four, of the councillors must be elected.

Any public-spirited person with an interest in serving the village community by becoming a councillor should contact me and I will be able to explain what is involved and what is expected of a councillor. The duties are not exactly arduous and there are just six meetings a year to attend.

**Peter Davies**  
Clerk

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## 100 CLUB DRAW

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The March draw was made at Coffee Hour on 31st March. First prize of £25 went to Annette Campbell (No. 43) and second of £10 to The Dacheles (No. 88).

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## FROM YOUR MP - ED VAIZEY

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At the beginning of April, the Daily Mail wrote a two-page spread on Wantage. The Daily Mail is now printed just a few miles away from Wantage, in Didcot, so you might have thought this would be a homage to a local, nearby town. Not a bit of it. Headed Credit Crunch Central, the article depicted Wantage as almost a ghost town - boarded up shops, listless kids, even the famous statue of King Alfred denuded of his axe.

The premise of this article was that the Wantage constituency, which I represent, and which includes Faringdon, Grove, Didcot and Wallingford as well as Wantage itself, has seen the largest annual rise in unemployment in the country, in percentage terms - a whopping 204.9%. Now, that is a very worrying statistic. And I do not want in any way to underestimate the difficulties we face in this area, nor the personal crisis faced by many individuals and their families who together make up that terrible statistic, some of whom were quoted in the article.

But it is also important to present the other side of the story. Wantage - the town and the constituency - is very far from being a ghost town. Yes, Wantage itself has lost its Woolies, and several estate agents and a bar have gone out of business. But there are also new employers coming to the area all the time, to Wantage and elsewhere in the constituency. In fact, Wantage's rise in unemployment looks awful only because we start from such a low base. Even today, unemployment remains relatively low, at 2.5% and Wantage ranks 601st out of 659 constituencies in terms of unemployment (with number 1 obviously being the constituency with the highest number of unemployed).

As I never tire of telling people, this is one of the most economically dynamic areas of the country, with Europe's largest business park and some of the biggest scientific investment

in the UK, as well as good transport links to the rest of this country. We are well-placed to weather this recession.

But we cannot just sit back. I am planning job clinics in Wantage and Didcot. As I have said before, I am ready to help any individual or business in difficulty, either with banks or Government bureaucracy. And we must also plan for recovery. We'll continue to need the skills to sustain our economy, which means investment in our local schools and colleges. We'll continue to need good transport links, which means planning infrastructure properly. And yes, we will need more housing, in the right places, so that people can be confident that if they invest here there will be the people to employ. But we are not Credit Crunch Central, not now, and I don't think ever.

I note that Thames Water has decided to put back its plans for a reservoir by five years until 2014 and also to scale back its size by a third. I have always been a reservoir sceptic. I have never said "never" to a reservoir, but I have always said that Thames Water should have to prove its case overwhelmingly before such a huge change was made to our local area. I have to say the case for a reservoir looks weaker than ever. If it was essential, I cannot see how Thames Water could afford to delay their plans. Given that they seem to have easily postponed them, it is hard to see how they can now argue that a reservoir is essential for our future water supply. While the project is delayed, planning blight still affects a number of people, and I am keen to ensure that they do not suffer in the next few years.

Next local surgery is on 8th May in Grove Old Mill Hall at 5.30 p.m.

You can contact me at the House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA, on 0207 219 6350 or at vaizeye@parliament.uk. My website can be found at [www.vaizey.com](http://www.vaizey.com).

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

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## VILLAGE HALL PROJECT

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### Urgent Meeting on Funding

Charney Bassett has been fundraising to modernise the Village Hall for several years and has been able to collect approximately £18,000 within the Village through gifts and fundraising events. We have also received £13,600 in cash grants from outside organisations and have been awarded £67,000 in grants that can be claimed against expenditure. With money already available in CHAFT funds, this gives a total of £102,000 for the project.

Architects drawings, structural engineering and planning have already cost £12,000 and we can expect to spend another £5,000 on non-construction costs to complete the project (health & safety requirements and project supervision).

We therefore have £85,000 available to carry out building work.

The initial work specification that was given planning approval last year resulted in a lowest builders estimate of £173,000 + VAT. It was clear we could not find a way of funding this and a revised specification was developed and received planning approval in March this year. We have now received estimates from three builders for the new specification and the lowest figure is £99,640 + VAT.

We can avoid most VAT costs but realistically need an extra £20,000 to carry out the project.

Our grant money, totalling £80,600 has been

awarded on the understanding it is spent within a certain timescale and we are under pressure to use the grants. We must start building work very soon or cancel the project and return all the grant funding.

A meeting has been arranged in the Village Hall on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April to seek further donations or loans or ideas on how to quickly raise money to help bridge the funding gap of £20,000. Loans would be repaid with money from further fundraising events and therefore would have to be on a long term (4-5 year), interest-free basis.

At the time of writing (which is before the planned meeting) the initial response to a letter publicising the subject has been very positive with several thousand pounds pledged in gifts (plus gift aid) and more in loans. It is hoped this generosity will spread and we will finally be able to carry out the modernisation project. We were given the hall fifty years ago and the work planned will guarantee its usefulness for another fifty years.

If, however, we stop the project and return grant money from outside the Village, together with money raised in this latest plea for funds, we will be left with approximately £10,000, which would allow us to do little more than basic maintenance on the building.

I do hope you will feel able to contribute in some way to ensure the project goes ahead.

**Geoff Rumble**

CHAFT Treasurer & Parish Council Chairman

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## VILLAGE DINER

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The Village Diner provides home-made food from local sources in Buckland Village Hall, at 12.15 p.m. every third Wednesday in the month (except August and December). For £4 you get a two-course meal, tea or coffee. Next date: 20th May.

Attendance has fallen off somewhat lately, threatening the viability of this semi-social event. Mary Daghish, Julie Rumble or Eunice Davies can give you more information and can recommend the quality and variety of the food.

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## VILLAGE CLEAN-UP

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The village clean-up on Saturday, March 28th was a great success with a good turn-out of villagers prepared to tackle litter around the village. Special equipment for litter picking, including hi-vis jackets and tongs was provided by the Vale Council Waste Team.

Although nominally a two-hour session, the temptation of The Chequers, which opened early to provide coffee and Danish pastries, was too great, but by then most of the litter had been collected.

As well as an assortment of scrap metal objects, including a tape deck, a gas bottle and a car battery, 22 sacks of litter were collected

together with no fewer than 21 car wheels (so much for the government policy which demands payment for taking wheels and tyres to the tip!). The litter and rubbish collected was taken to Orchard Green which looked a mess for a short while but all credit to the Vale Council which arranged its collection within 48 hours of the clean-up.

It is hoped to arrange another clean-up in the Autumn, because, unfortunately, the litter is coming back. If only we could catch the irresponsible people who throw it out of car windows.

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## PLANNING

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The appeal into the refusal of outline planning permission for two workers' dwelling at New Manor Farm was considered at a hearing way back in November 2008 and was upheld in a report by the Planning Inspectorate in December 2008 (which means outline permission should be granted). However, the Vale planners were not satisfied with this and have appealed against this decision. This will be heard at The High Court later this year.

The Parish Council has no objection to this development which is, after all, only for outline planning and which it sees as needed for the future viability of the farm; it has no visual impact on the village. It considers the decision to go to the High Court, with inevitably high costs involved, to be perverse and fails to understand why the Vale have chosen to fight this development. However, it is not for the council to fight the developer's battles for him and it awaits the final decision with gritted teeth and the expectation that precious public funds will be wasted.

An application to replace the outbuildings at Home Farm has been approved by the Vale Planning Committee with some minor

amendments to reduce the impact on neighbours.

Charney Manor has been granted permission for a footpath and gate in Lyford Road to make access safer for pedestrians.

On the general subject of planning, it's worth reminding you of the rules about work on trees in the village conservation area. In this context, work includes pruning and felling. If you wish to carry out work on any tree in the conservation area which exceeds 4 inches diameter at shoulder height, you need permission from the Vale Council Planning Department. They need approximately six weeks to process an application so that they can inform interested parties, such as the parish council. It is very rare for the council to object to an application, because there is usually a very good reason for doing the work. However, there has been one case in recent years where the scope of the work was reduced after a council objection and there has been one case where tree felling was stopped because the formal process had not been followed. If in doubt, consult The Clerk for advice.