

Charney Chatter

NUMBER 35

SEPTEMBER 2009

VILLAGE HALL PROJECT!

The news of the imminent start to the Project in the last edition proved slightly optimistic. However, the starting date is definitely getting closer. Swine Flu has been the latest obstacle to delay the project but it looks as if we have cleared this hurdle and hope to obtain agreement with builder Ed Hughes to start work on 7th September. We still need to continue to raise funds to be sure of having enough money for the Project and hope everyone will be generous at the Village Feast on Saturday 5th September. First prize in the raffle is a whopping £250 so don't forget to buy plenty of tickets - we need to make a profit!

You will have seen in the Wantage Herald that Waitrose are continuing their Community Matters programme which gives money to worthwhile local community organisations. We have written to them several times to get the Hall Project on their nomination list but have been unsuccessful. It looks as if the more people nominate a project, the more chance it has of getting into the scheme, so what are you waiting for? If you shop at Waitrose, all you have to do is get a form and fill it in. If you need help with making our project sound needy - let me know!

Geoff Rumble

CHAFT Treasurer

Charney Bassett Feast

Saturday 5th September
1.00 - 4.30 p.m.

Lots of fun and games around the Village Green

Grand draw (1st prize £250), lucky programme draw, plants and produce, bric-a-brac, BBQ, teas and ices, tombolas and a variety of stalls and activities

Special features:-

Garg's Animal Encounters - snakes, creepy crawlies and furry beasts

Treasure trail - everyone a winner!

Wantage Silver Band

As well as enjoying all the goodies at The Feast, why not go and watch the judging in the

Companion Dog Show
in The Paddock next to The Green

12 Classes including pedigree and novelty.

£1.50 per entry per class.

Registration of entries 1.00 p.m.
Judging from 2.00 p.m.

Judge Mr Ken Fry, Gable Cross
All enquiries to Mrs Yvonne Hobbs.

Tel: 01235 868428

Your councillors:-

Geoff Rumble (Chairman), Buckland Road 868738

Jim Harper (Vice-chairman), Barnfield 868288

Jos Bath, Buckland Road 868260

Mike Cox, New Road 868276

Doug Hughes, Main Street 868438

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 September 2009

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PARISH COUNCIL**

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ADVERTS AND EVENTS

Personalised Hand-made Cards

Can't find the right card for that special occasion? Eunice will make one for you. Ring her on 868646. Proceeds to the Village Hall Project. Her cards will be on sale at The Feast

Village Hall Bookings

Village Hall bookings will obviously be suspended while the extension work is going on. However, contact Eunice Davies on 868646 for hire of tables, crockery, cutlery and the gazebos.

Table Tennis

Interested in playing table tennis in the Village Hall? Contact Dave Sibbert on 868734 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

The next meeting of the CLET Trustees will be held in January 2010. 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.

Charney Rangers FC

Any children interested in playing, please contact Bernard Townsend on 01235 868181, Mobile: 07747 094351 or Mr D Kitchen on 07823 446757.

The Chequers

Beer Festival - 5th/6th September. An excellent range of quality cask-conditioned Brakspear ales, other beer, lager and cider.

Lyford Concert - in aid of St. Mary's church.

On Saturday, September 19th, 2009 at 7.30 p.m., in the church, The Hanney Ensemble presents an evening of 'September Music' for soprano, flute, guitar and cello to include music by Handel, Vivaldi, Telemann, Purcell, Germiniani and Hand, followed by drinks and food in the adjoining barn of Lyford Manor Farm (courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Christoff Lewis).

Tickets (including food and wine): £12.50

Please send cheque (payable to Lyford PCC) and return address to: John Hedderley, 11 Minns Road, Grove, OX12 7NA Tel. 01235 764138.

Hanney Gardening Club

7th Sept 7:30 for 8:00 Hanney Memorial Hall

AGM and Talk "Gardening for Climate Change" Speaker John Brannon

Visitors welcome £1.

Deadline for copy for the next edition in November 2009: 20 October 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!

HEADLINES

- *Hall Project delayed to September*
- *Community Minibus needs drivers*
- *Have you got a "Flu Friend"?*
- *What shall we do with the phone box?*
- *Charney Rangers FC Open Day a great success!*

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Coffee Hour will resume on September 15th **in the church.**

For further details contact Eunice (868646), Julie (868738) or Mary (858557).

Visit www.charneybassettpc.org.uk for the very latest village news

NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION GROUP - AUGUST REPORT

Report by PC Phil Redmond and Sgt Tony Maddison, Faringdon Police Station.

There have been reports of anti - social behaviour occurring in the Southmoor and Stanford-in-the-Vale areas, and it is believed to be caused by young persons who are mainly local residents. The Neighbourhood Team has increased its visible patrols and are targeting known individuals, as well as engaging with them, to deter them from unruly behaviour.

There have been reports that many of these young people are asking adults to enter shops and purchase cigarettes and alcohol on their behalf. The Co-Op in Stanford in the Vale and Southmoor Food and Wine have been particularly targeted in this fashion. The link between alcohol and anti-social behaviour is well documented and any attempts at this should be reported to police. Buying alcohol for a person under eighteen carries a fixed penalty fine of £80.

White Horse Business Park has been the subject of two attempted burglaries in the past month. Offenders have not gained entry and enquiries continue.

Three vehicles were damaged early in July at Kingston Business Park and recently the Cricket Pitch in Hanney was also damaged. Both were acts of mindless vandalism and any information regarding these offences can be passed in confidence to either Police on 0845 8 505 505 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

There have been sporadic reported thefts of garden/farm equipment and scrap metal across our area. There is no pattern to these opportunist crimes and residents and businesses should remain alert to deter the possibility of giving thieves an opportunity to steal.

Police Community Support Officers Myra Stokes and Sue Haynes continue to do sterling work across our area and remain high profile in as many of our villages as possible. They have also been pro-active in the areas of Speeding

and Parking, both of which have been identified, by you, as your priority concerns; they also attended Hatford and Fyfield fetes.

Speed Indication Device (SID) continues to be deployed and a new miniature camera, which records the details of vehicles exceeding the speed limit in problem areas, is now being used in conjunction with Speedwatch. This reflects your continuing concern with speeding vehicles and your Neighbourhood Team's efforts to respond to your concerns.

I am pleased to report that this month has been relatively good for reported crime for our neighbourhoods. Whilst anti-social behaviour is a concern for all of us, the reports we have received have been minor in nature and mainly noise related with young persons playing games during late hours.

In other areas we have been experiencing shed burglaries within the last week, so we would ask all residents to be extra vigilant and ensure that sheds and outhouses are securely locked and expensive belongings not on show. It is not uncommon for criminals to travel that little bit further to commit these offences. Shed alarms are available from your Neighbourhood Team or the Crime Reduction Advisor, Roger Foster, costing £5.50. Please phone 0845 8 505 505 if you would like an alarm or shed security advice.

There has been a good response with the Police surgeries held so far in Hanney and Southmoor and Myra Stokes is planning more. Please look out for details to be published on the Neighbourhood Policing website or posters around the village.

Please come and meet your Neighbourhood Team and take the opportunity to discuss any crime related issues you may have.

For more information about your local neighbourhood team, contact 0845 8 505 505, or visit www.thamesvalley.police.uk.

FROM YOUR MP - ED VAIZEY

Despite the long Parliamentary recess, work has continued as usual. I am still dealing with a large volume of correspondence and helping various constituents with their cases. Because Parliament is not sitting, there is no parliamentary business to report on.

A few items of interest across the constituency. First, I was delighted to learn that the Government has ordered a public inquiry into the large reservoir that Thames Water want to build between Stevenon and the Hanneys. Thames Water have already reduced the size of the proposed reservoir by a third and delayed any possible start date until after 2014. I have long called for a public inquiry and raised the issue in the House of Commons last November. It is the best way of exploring all the alternatives, as well as the actual need for this new water supply. My understanding is that the inquiry will commence in 2010.

Second, the incinerator proposed for Sutton Courtenay is coming to a head. There are two possible sites for an incinerator - Sutton Courtenay and Ardley in the north of the County. The County Council will choose a preferred bidder in September and that will influence the choice of site, as each bidder has a preferred site. I have argued that there are

much more modern alternatives to incineration and have called for the County to look at these before pressing ahead with an incinerator.

Third, I was interested to see that the Association of Train Operating Companies published a report listing a number of stations that could be re-opened and included Wantage/Grove in the list. I am urgently seeking a meeting to explore their thinking, to see if this could become a real possibility.

In August, in my capacity as opposition culture spokesman, I issued a report on the decline in library attendance in the last few years across the country. This earned me my first appearance on the Today programme. The interview with Jim Naughtie went very well, until his co-presenter, Evan Davis, pointed out I was wearing my T-shirt back-to-front. Memo to self - don't get dressed in the dark next time.

Next surgery dates, all at 5.30pm: September 25th - Civic Hall, Wantage. October 9th - Old Mill Hall, Grove.

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.

100 CLUB

The running of the 100 Club has been taken over by David and Mahala Nellist, Buckland Road. Geoff and Julie Rumble handed over the reins in time for the "big" June draw.

There are currently 129 members in the Club but there's room for more if you are not yet a member. Contact David or Mahala on 868593. The August draw was held at the Charney

Bassett table at the Village Diner in Buckland, in the presence of lots of independent onlookers. First prize of £25 went to Stephanie Davies of Childrey (No. 21) and second prize of £10 to Jill Hook (No. 54). Stephanie's number was drawn out of the bag by her grandmother, Eunice!

FLU FRIENDS

Swine flu may become a pandemic in the UK over the coming months so now is the time to choose your "flu friend". A flu friend is a relative, neighbour or friend who will collect medicines, food and other supplies for you if you get swine flu so that you don't have to leave home. This is to help prevent the spread of flu and is explained in the leaflet that was sent to all households in Britain. Flu friends are not friends with flu!!

While there is currently absolutely no need for concern, the advice issued by NHS Oxfordshire suggests you plan ahead in case there is a pandemic later this year. The Parish Council believes that most people in the village can already identify flu friends and

there is no need for it to take any action. However, there is a suggestion in the NHS advice that people without flu friends should be able to join a local network of friends in case of need and one such organisation suggested as being able to set up such a network is the Parish Council.

If you cannot identify a flu friend or you know of a vulnerable neighbour who may not have a flu friend, get in touch with one of the parish councillors (see contact details on the back page) to make certain that nobody in the village is "flu friendless" should the pandemic happen.

The Clerk

VILLAGE TELEPHONE BOX

On the agenda for the September Council meeting is the question of what to do about the village telephone box. BT have given notice that as the box is now very rarely used (mobile phones have taken over) there are three options open to the Council. It can sponsor the box at an annual cost of £500 and keep it operating or it can purchase it for the nominal sum of £1 and maintain it without a telephone

in it. The third option is to remove it. It seems that the middle option will be adopted because the Council cannot afford to sponsor it but it must remain *in situ* because anyone giving directions to travellers to the village inevitably refers to the box as a "landmark"! Of course, if anybody out there is prepared to pay the sponsorship fee, it can continue in use.

VILLAGE DINER

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. For £4 you get a two-course meal, tea or coffee. Next date: 16th September.

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.

SOUTH AND VALE CARERS

South & Vale Carers Centre are looking for Volunteer Befrienders. As a befriender you will sit with the cared-for person so the carer can get out of the house for an hour or two. Your visit might be the only time the carer is able to get out of the house. You only need to

commit one hour a week or fortnight or more if you can spare it. We have volunteers of all ages but need more to keep the service running. Call Teresa Thompson on 01235 510212 or email teresa@svcarers.org.uk She will be very pleased to hear from you.

Visit www.charneybassettpc.org.uk for the very latest village news

CHARNEY RANGERS FC - CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Charney Rangers F C Open Day on August 16th was a great success. A sunny day, the pitch looked great and the event proceeded virtually without a hitch, save for the breakdown of the tea urn and the last minute cancellation of the Fire Engine due to crew availability problems. That said, the event was well attended and after expenses the club made a profit of just over £250.

The match was advertised as between Charney Rangers and Appleton Stars, however the visitors were unable to raise a full team and Didcot Casuals kindly stepped in to the breach by providing a mixed team from their A Team, (two leagues above our boys) and their B Team who are in the same league as Charney Rangers. The home team lost 7-2, however the boys were not as overwhelmed as the

scoreline suggests, as they kept their heads up and ensured the game was a thriller with local boy Ben Townsend scoring both goals for Charney Rangers.

The club would like to thank Derek McClintock and Dave Sibbert, who along with the parents of the team members spent most of Saturday and Sunday morning mowing and marking out the pitch, collecting tables and chairs and erecting gazebos. The club would also like to thank Geoff Rumble and The Clerk for their input and support which helped us progress the event fairly smoothly - many thanks. We would also like to thank The Chequers for the BBQ facility.

Bernard Townsend

For contact details see advert on back page.

PROJECT CHAFFINCH

Charney Army has not been active in flood prevention lately but is planning to undertake some further work on the millstream from the point where it leaves Charney Wick Ditch and runs along the bottom of Bridle Cottage garden. This will require waders and a case has been put forward to the Vale Council for funding for them plus some other equipment to aid the work.

A meeting between Charles Dingwall and the Vale Council Senior Land Drainage engineer has resulted in an agreement to dig out the ditch which runs alongside Longworth Road as far as New Manor Farm. Mr Dingwall will be using his own labour to undertake this work so it will not happen until the harvest is in; a date of November has been pencilled in. This may well result in some disruption to traffic flows in Longworth Road.

STANFORD-IN-THE-VALE COMMUNITY MINIBUS

The minutes of the July meeting of the Minibus Committee contain two matters of concern to users. 1. Although the bus is of relatively recent purchase it may in the near future incur additional taxation because it cannot meet the latest low carbon emission standards and 2. The ever-present need for

drivers is now even greater with two recent driver resignations. If you'd like to be considered as a driver, a rewarding activity with little demands on your time, please get in touch with me.

Jim Harper
PC Transport Representative

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