

CHARNEY AND LYFORD EDUCATION TRUST (CLET)

Geoff Rumble writes:

I feel a little embarrassed that Charney Chatter has been up and running for several issues and I have only now found time to put pen to paper, to provide an article for inclusion in this excellent newsletter. (*Well, this man knows how to get a letter published!* - Ed) Perhaps I should be no more embarrassed than those reading this who also have not found time to put pen to paper. Maybe my contribution will spur a few more of you into giving Peter some topical and interesting column inches!

So what is and who are CLET? I believe the Charney and Lyford Education Trust is viewed as obscure by many villagers. It is a charitable trust that is able to distribute monies for educational purposes that arise from the sale of

the village school many years ago, but do we know -

- How much money is distributed each year?
- How much is available for distribution?
- What is the constitution of the trust?

These are all questions that, if I were a trustee, I would want to be in the public domain. I recognize that charities can require sensitive handling but this is surely not an excuse for a wall of silence. I do not believe it would take much thought or effort to publicise the trust and the work they do.

I sincerely hope members of CLET take my little dig in a positive spirit. I am sure an occasional paragraph in Charney Chatter would quell snipers like me!

Alison Peters replies:

CLET is an Educational Charity set up to administer the income from the proceeds of the sale of Charney Bassett School to McBains in 1986. The Trust's purpose is to support, by the provision of grants, educational projects for the benefit of any individual or group resident in Charney Bassett or Lyford. Due to legal issues the first grants could not be awarded until 1999, following the publication of the Charity Scheme governing the Trust.

The Charity is administered by eight Trustees who are representatives of Charney Bassett and Lyford Parochial Church Councils, Charney Bassett Parish Council and Lyford Parish Meeting, together with the Rector (ex-officio) and a further resident of Charney Bassett who is co-opted. Each appointment is made for 4 years.

The Trustees meet three times a year (January, May and September) to grant awards. Notices

are put in Cherbury News and on the two village notice boards at least a month before each meeting giving details of how to apply.

During the last few years CLET has been able to award individuals grants for books and equipment for University, gap year projects abroad, field trips, student exchange visits and music lessons. The Trust has supported village organisations and projects at schools attended by pupils living in the two villages. It has also given a major grant towards the cost of the play equipment on Charney Field. The Trustees are particularly pleased to give financial support to the Village College, enabling the Trust to benefit a greater number of people.

As Clerk to CLET, I would be very happy to speak to anyone who would like further information about the Trust. Alison Peters, 5 Orchard Close, Charney Bassett (868569).

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Charney Chatter

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 4

JULY 2004

PUBLISHED BY CHARNEY BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

Meetings: 2nd Wednesdays of odd-numbered months. **Next meeting: 14 July 2004.**

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EDITORIAL

Two very important topics are aired in this issue, both the subjects of letters received. Kay Adamson reports on the crisis facing CHAFT and Geoff Rumble asks questions about CLET. I had already invited Alison Peters to contribute to this

issue so co-incidentally she has responded to Geoff. (see page 4).

This issue has a different layout because of the quantity of material I had to squeeze in. That's not a complaint - please keep it coming, preferably by e-mail!

VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT

OCC has finally painted the railings protecting the bridge over the mill stream. The adjacent Ock Green railings now look really scruffy but we've found a contractor to repair them and we've applied to the Vale Council for a grant towards the cost.

vehicles for 7 days after reporting in case the owner can be traced. This was an opportunity for vandals to set fire to it - which they did, after first demolishing it. The state of the wreckage has required a specialist contractor to remove it - at council tax payers' expense!

A large case of fly-tipping came to light recently - a caravan! It has taken a long time to clear (and it's still not all gone) because of the legal requirement to leave dumped

The Old Stables Barn thatching looks superb. Other properties on the same thatcher's long job list include Straddlestones (soon) and Mount Pleasant (later).

VILLAGE EVENTS

May Day Celebrations

Steve Callaghan has written me a note about the very successful May Day celebrations on the Village Green which raised the sum of £67.75½. (*Is someone money laundering old coins here?* - Ed) The sum was split between Breakthru Breast Cancer and Whizz Kidz, the children's mobility charity for which Steve is running the

New York marathon in November. Grateful thanks are due to the helpers, too many to mention.

Coffee Hour

The next session of Coffee Hour (10.30 to 11.30) resumes in the Village Hall on 14 September and runs to 14 December. Put this in your diary now!

HEADLINE TOPICS

- *CHAFT in crisis*
- *All about CLET*
- *Threat to Minibus service*
- *The Chequers*
- *Have your say in the NHS*

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Deadline for copy for the next edition in September 2004: 24 August 2004

CHARNEY HALL AND FIELD TRUST (CHAFT)

Another busy year for CHAFT has passed and at the AGM on 16 July a lone member of the public heard my annual report.

The Feast, back in July 2003, was our major fund raising event and combined a day of fun with an evening of live music, food and the company of fellow villagers. A big thank you to the Buchanans for the loan of their paddock. In November the Bonfire and Fireworks evening was a welcome opportunity to get together with friends and family and enjoy homemade food and fantastic fireworks. Finally a Spring Fling was enjoyed by approximately 30 children and accompanying adults one Saturday in April. While children collected natural objects, grown-ups ate home made cakes and drank coffee.

The Village Hall continues to be used by village groups and in particular provides a venue for the Village College. How nice to wander down the road rather than jumping in a car to attend French conversation classes, yoga, flower arranging or a willow course. Similarly, the play equipment on the Field provides a place for our children to play and chat with friends in a beautiful setting.

Our events rely on volunteers to help and support with jobs from putting up marquees to baking goodies and we very much appreciate this. However, the organisation and decision making that enables the Feast, Bonfire and the continued use of the play equipment etc. to take place is being done by an ever-decreasing number of people.

Unfortunately, at the AGM we were unable to elect a full committee including a chair person. Without a committee the Feast will not happen next year therefore CHAFT will not have enough funds to cover the running costs of the Hall and Field. As a consequence, the events and activities which make Charney Bassett such a nice place in which to live will not take place.

If you have enjoyed any of the above and would like them to continue it is essential more people join the CHAFT committee. Many hands make light work! If you would like to get involved, speak to Elisabeth Dahele, Lucy Gildersleeves or me. We look forward to hearing from you.

Kay Adamson, outgoing CHAFT chairman.

PATIENT AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN HEALTH

As from the 1st December 2003 a new independent national organisation was set up to enable local people from all sections of the community to be involved in the decision making about health services in their local area.

The organisation called Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health has set up local health forums made up of members of the public all across the country that have real legislative powers set out by government to influence the way NHS is run locally.

A forum member's role is to obtain local views

from the community and take action. This is done by influencing decisions where they are made and monitor and visit health facilities.

Forums in Oxfordshire are currently seeking members. The most important thing is enthusiasm to make health services better in the future for you, your family and the community. If you are interested in representing local views we would be delighted to hear from you.

Please contact: Alison Bell on: 01993 886643
Email: alisonbell@oacppih.org

CHARNEY FETE: 2.00 to 5.00 at Charney Manor. Charney Mill open. Meal on the Green 7.15 to 11.30 p.m, Adults £8, Children (4-12) £5, tickets from Lucy (868782) or Barbara (868788), deadline Saturday 3 July. Donations, cakes (not for the meal on the green!) and prizes needed. Offers of help to David (868788). Fete theme "Wells". Are you displaying one in your garden?

PLANNING

Two planning applications have been dealt with since the last issue. The owners of Manor Farm House have been refused permission to extend their garden into the adjacent paddock (which they own). The planning authority considers that this would erode the rural edge to the village.

Charney Manor has been allowed to install a new timber supporting column to the dining room ceiling - which is just as well as we need the dining room for the harvest supper!

In the last issue I listed the listed buildings in the village but I omitted the charming residence (Bridle Cottage) of Mr and Mrs Bill Lindsey from that list.

The new Local Plan - the planners "Bible" up to 2011 is on deposit until 15 July for comment. If you'd like to see it (it's 50 mm thick!), let me know or visit the Vale Council web site at www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk. It includes Supplementary Planning Guidance which details the proposed Grove Airfield Development.

CHARNEY MILL

The restorers, partners and friends held another "meet the Parish Council" social evening in the Mill on 19 June. An excellent evening was had by all (it was a lot warmer than the last time - in December 2002!) and councillors were able to

get an update on restoration progress.

The Mill will be open to the public on the afternoon of the Village Fete on 10 July. Come and see progress for yourselves.

THE CHEQUERS

Well, it's all change and no change at The Chequers. Phil Curtis, Naomi and family have left for pastures new (or should that be champs nouveaux?) in France so we wish them bon chance! Jessica Fitzgibbon, fiancé Philip Clark, and Jessica's Mum and Dad, Sue and Tony (all from Wokingham) have taken over, so it's bienvenue, (sorry, welcome!) to them.

It's no change because Richard and Pam still engage in friendly repartee and the menu's the same, with Pensioners' Perks still available on Thursdays (*I'm pleased to say! - Ed*). The new owners are still settling in and haven't had time to think about changes except the possibility of reinstating the pub garden.

COMMUNITY MINIBUS

Lack of drivers is threatening the Wednesday runs, which serve Charney and Lyford. Friday drivers who live in Charney, may "transfer" to Wednesday if there's a gap in the rota, but the

best solution is more drivers. Do you know someone who might be prepared to spare a morning every so often to help maintain this valuable service to the community?

POLICE NEWS

PC Martyn Holder, our local bobby, has been asked to keep an eye on the children's play area where boisterous behaviour by teenagers too big to use the equipment has been reported. He believes he knows who they are and where they

come from and has promised to "have a word". Let him know if you see this happening again. His phone numbers are home: (01367) 870232, mobile: 07970 145294.