

**Your councillors:-**

Geoff Beer (Chairman), Buckland Rd. 868709  
Jim Harper (Vice-chairman), Barnfield 868288  
Penny McGuire, Main Street 868666  
Geoff Rumble, Buckland Road 868738  
John Stiles, Barnfield 868191

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 March 2005.**

---

## CLERK'S CORNER

---

### Precept

In case you missed it in Cherbury News, the January Council meeting agreed to raise the precept for 2005/06 to £2,300 from £2,000 (which it has been for the last four years in a row). This might sound a steep increase at 15% but it only means a slight increase on the £15 per year, 30p per week, 4p per day which the occupants of a Band D property pay for the services which the Council provides.

### Ock Green Railings

At last we've found a contractor who will replace the rotten posts supporting the railings on Ock Green. He will use round-top oak posts two feet high. At the same time we will eliminate the scaffold poles and replace them with square section wrought iron rails to match the existing. He can't undertake the work just yet but hopes to complete it before the end of April. We may need a working party to help clear out the old poles before he comes in - watch this space! We will receive a 75% grant from the Vale Council for this work.

---

## ADVERTISEMENT

---

### Personalised Home-made Cards

If you have difficulty finding just the right card for that special occasion, Eunice will make one for you. Give her a ring at "Narrogin", Longworth Road on 868646. Proceeds to St. Peter's church.

Deadline for copy for the next edition in May 2005: 20 April 2005  
Contributions are welcome, in fact desperately needed! Adverts are free!

### Wildlife

Penny McGuire has responded to my appeal for wildlife information by mentioning the crayfish on the drive, barn owls nesting in the chimney, polecats in the wall (*I suspect they're not real polecats Penny - Ed*), mink in the stream, parakeets in the crab apple tree and kingfishers.

I can report regular visits to the fence at the bottom of the garden of a muntjak (he used to come in until we put up chicken wire), and a pheasant family (cock and 11 hens) who most mornings call in to feed off the low bird table on the patio.

### Charney - the village for friendship and fun?

I have received a number of reports of a handwritten notice on the notice board which says that a young lady is looking to meet men 35+ for friendship and fun! One of my informants says this reinforces the message that the village is active and forward looking, adding "Now, that will make Charney Chatter" It did and it has!

# Charney Chatter

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2

MARCH 2005

---

## VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT

---

"Here we go again", I hear you say, The Clerk is clearly obsessed with dog fouling! I'm not actually, I'm obsessed with trying to keep the village I (and you) live in as clean as possible.

So, regrettably I have to turn to the topic yet again. Fouling has returned with a vengeance with numerous deposits on pavements, footpaths and the Stanford Bridle path. I have received a number of complaints lately which is why I feel I have to air the subject again. If that gets me branded as "Davies the Dog Poo" then so be it!

The good news is that one offender was identified when a dog was observed in the act on a pavement and has received a letter from the Parish Council insisting that this should not happen again. The letter makes two important points. One is that everyone exercising dogs in the village and surrounding footpaths should carry the wherewithal to pick up faeces for safe disposal back home. I know the vast majority of village dog owners are responsible in this respect but this message is aimed at the minority who, for whatever reason, show scant respect for the environment and neighbours

by allowing fouling. The other important point is that the new Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act came into effect on 1 January and that carries a fine of up to £1,000 for the offence.

The Environmental Warden of the Vale Council has been consulted about the problem and he confirms he has the power to impose on-the-spot fines and to take offenders to court. In this instance the Council is not availing itself of his services but any future offenders may not be so lucky.

Incidentally, we know from examining the evidence on the Village Green (I'll spare you the details but it's to do with size!) that there is more than one guilty dog and we're actively looking for the other one(s). Strictly speaking of course, it's the owner who is the offender.

One other item of environmental concern is a second sewage blockage (wipes again!) in Orchard Close, quickly cleared by Thames Water. However, despite TW's sharing of concern after the first episode, the Council has asked them to look at the problem again. Once is an accident, twice may be carelessness!

## HEADLINE TOPICS

- Dog Fouling
- Old Village Hall Tables Doomed!
- Goats Factfile
- New Hamlet Planned

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Village College	2
Manor Farm Goats	2
Planning	3
Charney Field	3
Clerk's Corner	4
Advertisement	4

## Village Coffee Hour

Coffee Hour (10.30 to 11.30 on Tuesdays) has resumed in the Village Hall and will run to 22nd March.

---

## VILLAGE COLLEGE

The Village College has always been generously supported by the Charney and Lyford Education Trust (CLET). Last year CLET made a grant of £750 towards the cost of running the College, including the cost of hiring the Village Hall and improving the facilities available for courses.

The first tangible evidence of improved facilities is about to be delivered in the form of new tables which will also be available for other Hall users. The existing heavy tables have long been difficult to set up, especially

by all-ladies courses such as flower arranging and willow. This problem will be eliminated by a set of five tables, light and easily erected and dismantled for storage. Four have been purchased with a grant to the Parish Council by the College and a fifth has been donated.

### College contacts:

Jackie Cross (868706)

Peter Davies (868646)

Elisabeth Dahele (868673)

E-mail: villagecollege@hotmail.com

Letters: Village Hall post box.

---

## MANOR FARM GOATS

*What a silly Billy I was, misunderstanding what Katy Dedman told me about her goats, so here, to put the record straight is her reaction to my piece in Planning last time!*

"I may have misled you into thinking that goats are not ruminants. However, what I said was that they were "browsers" not "grazers", therefore less likely to eat the grass effectively if turned out! There are also sound welfare reasons for keeping them indoors as they "don't do weather!" They are very susceptible to cold (as they have thin coats and relatively little subcutaneous fat).

Also, rather ironically, they are prone to heat stress and periods of hot weather and excessive sunshine can cause collapse (particularly in baby kids) and abortion (in pregnant does). As to diet: it is a popular misconception that goats "eat anything". In fact they are one of the most fastidious of feeders, and select from what is offered only the best material. However, due to their browsing *behaviour*, they will "feel" with their mouths (OK that often translates into "eat") any unusual objects in their environment, particularly if it happens to be

someone's clothing or reading material (or payslip - as I once discovered to my cost!).

Goats do not "smell", any more than other classes of livestock smell. The males of the species are undoubtedly "whiffy" in the breeding season, but not so the females! We also do not produce slurry, but well rotted farmyard manure, which is periodically spread on the land as part of a sound environmental and ecological cycle. Therefore an increase in "odour pollution" will not be an issue when we increase the number of goats on the farm.

The residents of Charney should not be affected by the farm expansion. Very little physical change should be apparent and buildings will in time be screened from view. We have both the welfare of our animals at heart and consideration to our neighbours. I hope they will all support our efforts by buying our products in the supermarkets!!"

*Thanks, Katy, for an interesting insight into New Manor Farm activities and goats' habits and also for the material to fill a large gap in this issue! - Ed*

---

## PLANNING

The retrospective application to convert the garage at 11 Orchard Close into a room has been approved by the Vale planners. Neighbours concerns about parking at the end of the close have been addressed by the parking space created in front of the property.

Another application to extend the garden at Manor Farm House into the Paddock has been rejected. This matter is not yet closed as the developer has appealed that the application was not determined by the planners "within the statutory time frame". The Council is frankly puzzled as to what this means but it will always strongly oppose any development of the Paddock.

The Council has not raised any objection to modifications to 29 New Road but it has made the comment that the photographs and plans accompanying this application were of a very high standard, seldom, if ever, achieved normally!

The extensions to buildings at New Manor Farm, referred to in the last edition, have received planning approval. Katy Dedman,

who runs the farm, has taken me to task about inaccuracies in my report and I'm very happy to put the record straight on page 2 of this edition!

Because it borders the parish, the Council has been sent details, for information only, of the development of Goosey Wick Farm where seven dwellings will be created from barn conversions after the current industrial activities on the farm have been relocated. As this is not in the parish the Council has to confine its comments to any possible effect on the village. It considered two potential effects - extra traffic and safe access off the Goosey road - but neither of these was seen to give rise to concern, indeed houses instead of industry might even reduce traffic. This is a slightly odd development in that it creates a new habitation in the middle of nowhere. Will it be classed as a hamlet? On asking whether such development would be permitted, the Vale planners said it was unusual but they were treating it as a barn conversion project, albeit on a grand scale and the Local Plan did not rule it out.

---

## CHARNEY FIELD

A number of people have said they're available for working parties mid-week rather than the weekend, so we've mustered the Charney Army for **Thursday 17th March**, meeting on the Field at 10.00 a.m.; please come along if you can. Tasks will include clearance of barbed wire and other rubbish from the little copse adjacent to the children's play area. This copse will provide "adventure" trails for kids and we want to make sure it's safe for them. We'll also fill in some mysterious holes around the bark-filled area around the swings and slides, clean up the bonfire site and fill in the ruts in the vehicular access from Buckland Road.

Two new garden benches have been placed in the children's play area for the benefit of parents and grandparents watching their charges at play. These seats were purchased by the Council with the aid of a 75% grant from the Vale Council Village Improvement Scheme. The fence around the area is to be modified so that larger mowing machines can be taken in every fortnight to improve the state of the grass.

The dead oak trees have been replaced (again!). This time the new trees are much smaller as evidence of two season's failures seems to suggest the planting of mature trees on the Field doesn't work.