

PUBLISHED BY CHARNEY

BASSETT PARISH
COUNCIL

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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 13th July 2005.

Charney Chatter

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 4

JULY 2005

CLERK'S CORNER

The Chequers

Happy first anniversary to Tony, Sue, Phil and Rebecca who have been at The Chequers for one year! But chatting to Tony recently (Pensioners' Perks, Thursdays!) he expressed disappointment that only four villagers supported their local pub when the Buckland Morris Dancers came to perform. This worried me. If you don't use it, you lose it!

Ock Green

The bees have been moved from the orchard alongside Ock Green so you, and more importantly, the grass cutters, can safely enter. The Council pays the princely sum of £1.00 annually for this privilege, so do make the most of it!

Thatching

What a delight to see the thatching going on in the village and apparently to watch competing thatchers slugging it out across the Village Green! But it wasn't what it seemed, the very pleasant retired thatcher who delivered the straw and to whom I chatted, was uncle to them both - it's a family thing!

The new Cottage on the Green thatch is actually triticali straw, locally grown and the spars holding it down are hazel, imported from, would you believe, Poland! I jokingly mentioned Polish plumbers but it seems there are Polish thatchers over here too! Thatched cottages do enhance the village environment and it's nice to see them looked after.

ADVERTISEMENTS

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 a number of charities.

Wantage First Responders (St. John Ambulance)

Plants left over from the Wantage Gardeners' Association sale in the "Shop" in Wantage and sold in Charney Bassett from 15th to 27th May made £42.10. This has been added to the Shop's proceeds for the Charity. Thanks

for every one's generosity. Mike Welham

Witness Service

Volunteers are needed to work in Oxford Magistrates Court, providing support, guidance and reassurance to witnesses and victims of crime. No experience needed, full training is provided.

For details contact:- Lucy Humphris, Witness Service Manager, Oxford City & S. Oxon Magistrates Courts.

Telephone: 01993 708147. E-mail: witness-service.oxford@uk.uumail.com

VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT

This section in the last edition was sub-titled (Bad News) so in the interests of being a bit more positive, in this edition I'm not going to say anything about rats, dog fouling, sewage blockages and killer dogs.

On second thoughts I will say something briefly about rats which are still appearing in a number of gardens in the village. If you do spot a rat, you're duty bound to report it to the Environmental Health Dept. of the District Council (phone 520202) who will arrange for their rat catcher to call on you and lay poison bait - and there's no fee for this service.

OK, enough of that, now for some more positive messages!

Have you tried out the new seats yet? They have been warmly welcomed by mums waiting for the school bus and by weary villagers needing a rest after walking to the post box. The Parish Council is grateful to the Village Improvement Grant Scheme of the District Council for assisting with their purchase.

A second project which attracted support from this Scheme has been completed. I refer, of

course, to the refurbishment (at long last) of the Ock Green railings. The replacement of the rotted posts by new oak posts and the scaffold poles by matching wrought iron rails has produced a pleasing effect which we hope will stay in good condition at least as long as the old ones did. Dave Godfrey did some sterling blacksmithing to straighten some of the rails and John Daglish, Derek McClintock and the Ed. did the skilled bit - painting the rails! Talking about painting, we've decided not to paint the posts to save future maintenance.

And talking about posts and rails, would you believe that the week after the job was finished OCC came along to measure up for new posts and rails on the opposite side of the road? Was this a co-incidence or were they shamed into it? It would appear that because they are within one metre of the road, they're a Highways responsibility whereas those on Ock Green aren't.

Now, what other village improvements would you like to see?

HEADLINE TOPICS

- Ock Green improved
- Look out for rats!
- Barnstorm failed!
- Bees buzz off!
- Polish thatchers!

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Village Coffee Hour

Coffee Hour (10.30 to 11.30 on Tuesdays) will resume in the Village Hall on 20th September and will run to 13th December.

VILLAGE COLLEGE

The College presented its first annual report to CLET at its May meeting. The report aimed to explain where last year's grant went and what the College is proposing for the future. It was well received and as a result, CLET has promised an increased grant of £1,000 for the next academic year. They attached no strings but expressed the hope that this grant would be an incentive to

increasing Abingdon and Witney College involvement in the College's affairs; something the College is keen to do.

College contacts:

Jackie Cross (868706)
 Peter Davies (868646)
 Elisabeth Dahele (868673)
 E-mail: villagecollege@hotmail.com

A NOTE FROM DEB LITTLE

As many of you know, I run a regional voluntary group of fundraisers for Breakthrough Breast Cancer. Warmest thanks to everybody who came to the May Day Dancing and raised £173.31 sponsorship money for my walk in September.

During one amazing weekend, 23rd-25th September 2005, thousands of women and men will unite in London to walk 60 kilometres in a bold display of courage and commitment. It's a weekend of hope, as we honour those we've lost, celebrate the living, and help eradicate breast cancer for good. For me personally, this weekend will be about discovering a strength I never thought I had.

All proceeds will help fund the work of Breakthrough Breast Cancer, the leader in the fight against breast cancer which affects one in nine women in Britain. At the UK's first dedicated breast cancer research centre, Breakthrough's scientific work ultimately aims to eradicate breast cancer by discovering its causes, finding methods of prevention, and developing new treatments.

I am under no illusion that my walk will be easy, however I have people, friends and family, who will help me each step of the way. I am walking in the memory of people I have lost, and for all those touched by this most dreadful disease. I feel really lucky to be well and able enough at the moment to actually do this walk. Most of us will know

people who are not able to make it, people who are ill or have passed away from Breast Cancer. Well, I am walking for them and with this tremendous effort on the part of everyone taking part, we will be rewarded with each of us safe in the knowledge that one day, in the true spirit of Breakthrough Breast Cancers vision, we will be helping our future generations and our children and their children will have a future free from the fear of breast cancer.

In doing this walk we will have a memory that will last a lifetime. How good is it going to feel when we get to the finish line, an achievement for each and everyone of us, a reason to be proud?

PLEASE visit my Team Page (Bob's Babes) at www.breakthroughweekend.org. If at all possible make a donation on-line. If you can't do this then please send donations to me at home (Cheques payable to Breakthrough Breast Cancer), no matter how small a donation you make.

With huge thanks for your continued support,
 Deb. X X

Lack of space prevents me from printing all of Deb's note but most of the rest of the information she sent me is on her Team Page. Good luck, Deb, we look forward to reading the report of your successful completion of the walk in a future edition - Ed.

POLICE MATTERS

There was an attempted break-in at the barn on Buckland Road adjacent to the old school playing field and vandalism to the fence of the latter; the two incidents might be related. PC Martyn Holder is on the case but with no leads at present. If you have any information

on these two incidents, please contact him. You are urged to keep a watchful eye on the barn and to report anything suspicious.

Martyn's phone numbers were published in the May edition of Charney Chatter.

IS IT ME? - ANOTHER RAMBLING BY GEOFF RUMBLE!

Hands up those of you who have heard of the South East England Regional Assembly (SEERA). You will find them on www.southeast-ra.gov.uk but in case you are not "on the web", here are a few snippets from their website. The assembly is the voice of the region, an area with a population of 8 million. Their responsibilities are advocacy, accountability and planning. Advocacy - a strong credible voice of the region. Accountability - the Southeast England Development Agency (SEDA) (*budget £125M p.a. - Ed*) is accountable to the Assembly for delivery of regional economic strategy. Planning - responsible for proposing strategic planning and transport

policy to the Government. In case you wondered if we elected any of the 112 members of the Assembly, we didn't. It includes nominated elected councillors and representatives for the voluntary sector, environmental groups, faith communities, business and economic partnerships, education and cultural networks and town and parish councils. Our local representative is Jerry Patterson, leader of the VWHDC.

I hope you are a little wiser now. The Assembly must be doing a good job because their annual spend went up from £2M in 2003 to £3.1M in 2005 which is certainly more than the rise in the cost of living.

To quote Terry Wogan again - Is it me?

CHARNEY ARMY

The Charney Army will continue to clear out the copse by the children's play area. The dense poplars are being thinned out and will be replaced with native specimens.

We meet regularly at 10.00 a.m. on the last Thursday of each month. If you'd like to join, please e-mail the Editor, or just turn up!

PLANNING

The appeal against the refusal of planning permission for extending the garden of Manor Farm House into the adjacent paddock has been dismissed by the Planning Inspectorate. Giving seven reasons for the dismissal, the Inspector concluded that "the development proposed would neither preserve nor enhance the character and appearance of the Charney Bassett

Conservation Area", thus accepting the objections raised by the District and Parish Councils.

Permission has been granted for a granny flat at Minmere Farm bungalow. Applications have been made for an extension to Mount Pleasant and a replacement garage at The White House. The Parish Council has raised no objection to either of these.