

PUBLISHED BY CHARNEY

BASSETT PARISH
COUNCIL

Editor: Peter Davies, Clerk
"Narrogin",
Longworth Road
Charney Bassett
Phone: 868646

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 14th September 2005.

Charney Chatter

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 5

SEPTEMBER 2005

CLERK'S CORNER

The Chequers

Grovel, grovel! My humble apologies to Jessica, one of the three licensees. I called her Rebecca in the last issue.

A pub team, captained by Landlord Tony, recently featured in the Sunday morning quiz on Radio Oxford in which pubs compete against the listening audience, who need to phone-in answers. Sadly, their record was Played 3, Won 2, Lost 1. Sadly because unfortunately the loss put them out of the competition. I did try to help them by phoning in with wrong answers but I wasn't quick enough!

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.

To All Charney's Bakers!

Cake Stall, Wantage Market, Saturday, 17th September

URGENTLY required:- CAKES and PRODUCE for the cake stall in the market place outside the VC Gallery in aid of St. Peter's church. If you can contribute to this event then please contact:- **David Douglas** on

Sports Report

Did you notice the first ever sports report on Page 3? It just goes to show I'll print anything I can lay my hands on! But seriously, I welcome this sort of village news and hope you'll send me more. (Incidentally, I'd like to add my congratulations to Tony).

What about your sporting achievements or those of your kids?

Talking of sport, I've just remembered that Joe Ody has promised me a report on the achievements of the Chequers Aunt Sally team! Watch this space!

868788 or **Mary Daghish** on **868557**, either of whom will arrange collection on or before Friday 16th Sept.

Home Start Southern Oxfordshire

The annual Autumn Fair takes place this year at Benson Parish Hall in Benson on Wednesday 19 October 2005 between 10.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. Come along and see our stalls with handmade jewellery, books and cards, fine foods and shawls, ski gear, children's clothing and Christmas gifts.

Entry is £3.00, with OAPs and children free. Refreshments available and plenty of parking. Look forward to seeing you in the Autumn!

VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT

The last issue invited villagers to suggest village improvements you'd like to see.

Steve Champion at Mill Cottage suggested this English village should have the cross of St. George flying over the churchyard on a flagpole and this was discussed at the last Council meeting. However, as the suggestion was specifically related to the church, it was outside the Council's remit and is a matter for the church. Steve is expected to raise the matter with Rev Sally Welch.

It was interesting, in looking into the matter, that the reason why the cross of St George is often seen flying on church tower flagpoles is that church law states it is the only flag the church is allowed to fly. The suggestion has received some publicity in the local press and will come up again at the next Council meeting. If the church does not want to see a flagpole in the churchyard, would you like to see a flagpole elsewhere in the village? If you do which flag should be flown, the cross of St. George or the Union Flag?

Jim Harper has proposed three improvements: a car park at the

Mill to make parking there safer, re-instatement of the village pond at Ock Green and a village sign. Parking on the piece of waste ground alongside the Mill has been approved by the landowner and it's now a question of putting down hardcore. Jim and Marion Gardiner have offered a large quantity of this and we need to work out how to move it. The pond would attract grants for its construction but there are questions about its viability and maintenance should it be created. A village sign would be like the ones seen in most Norfolk and Suffolk villages and a good example can be seen more locally at Childrey. If we had a village sign, what should be represented on it?

Charney really is a restful sort of place, especially to those who pass through! The two seats mentioned in the last issue will shortly be joined by another on the little patch of grass adjacent to the church. This third seat has been donated in memory of Basil Sharpus who died last year, by Nan, his widow, and Peggy his sister.

HEADLINE TOPICS

- *Fly the flag?*
- *Village sign?*
- *Your County Councillor reports*
- *Ragwort*
- *Bring back the pond?*

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Village Coffee Hour CORRECTION!

Coffee Hour (10.30 to 11.30 on Tuesdays) will resume in the Village Hall on 13th September (not 20th) and will run to 13th December.

My mistake - Ed

VILLAGE COLLEGE

Dates and available places for the next College term:-

Pilates: Wednesday evenings - 1 place;
Friday mornings - 1 place.

Yoga: Friday evenings - 2 places.

Flower Arranging: Thursday afternoons commencing October - 2 places.

Basket Making: 1-day, 13th October.

Christmas Decorations (Willow): 1-day 17th November.

College contacts:

Jackie Cross (868706)

Peter Davies (868646)

Elisabeth Dahele (868673)

E-mail: villagecollege@hotmail.com

Letters: Village Hall post box.

NEWS FROM YOUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR

The County Council is very quiet in August so there is not much to report, but I will try to keep you up to date with everything.

I am now on the Joint Oxfordshire Health Scrutiny Committee which looks at all healthcare in the County. I was surprised to hear of a new Government Quango which has been set up to scrutinise healthcare in the County, called The Healthcare Commission. It will organise a new way of star ratings for PCT's and Hospitals. I am watching very carefully because it seems to me to be costing a lot of taxpayer's money for "not much gain". I would be interested in your health stories and experiences and/or problems.

I was asked by many residents to try to do something about the poisonous ragwort. I made enquiries and the workmen came out

along the A420 and pulled much of it up. Apparently it is up to individual land owners to clear their own land.

The other problem I seem to come across when going to the various Parish Council meetings, is the state of the roads and pavements. I have reported all the problems to the Highways department and await the outcome. I do know that there is ALWAYS a budget constraint.

If you have any problems, don't hesitate to contact me. (please note my new e-mail address).

Melinda Tilley, County Councillor

Kingston Bagpuize Division

Tel/fax: 01865 820385

e-mail: Melinda.tilley@oxfordshire.gov.uk

TALKING OF RAGWORT

British Horse Society information:-

Ragwort is easily identified by a rosette of green jagged-edge leaves in early summer. It grows up to 3 feet with a woody, slightly red, stalk and bright yellow flower heads.

Mature plants pull easily but plants must be burnt or bagged up and taken to the local tip. Always wear sturdy waterproof gloves, cover

arms and legs to avoid contact with the plant. A facemask should be used to avoid inhalation of the ragwort pollen.

Ragwort retains its poisonous properties whether growing, sprayed or dried in food.

OCC Environmental Services will advise on ragwort on minor roads or in fields. Ring them on 01865 844300

COFFEE MORNING

I hope you noticed the correction on Page 1 to the dates of the next Coffee Morning "term".

On October 25th Sandra Nash, a Sobell Eunice Davies

House charity volunteer will be selling Sobell House Christmas cards. Do please come - and bring a friend.

CHILDREN'S INFORMATION SERVICE

The Oxfordshire Children's Information Service has produced "The Oxfordshire Children's Information Guide for Vale of White Horse". This Guide is a valuable resource for parents of young children living in the Vale District Council area.

Your Clerk has a copy of this Guide which you can borrow but because it is a free publication you can obtain your own copy from Karen Walker at the CIS on 08452 262636, or e-mail enquiries@oxoncis.org.uk. The CIS web site is www.oxoncis.org.uk.

SPORT'S REPORT - FROM OUR GOLFING CORRESPONDENT

Tuesday 16th August was a most important date in the Carswell Golf Club's calendar, and the day the Knighton Trophy was played for over the 18 hole par 72 course. This most prestigious trophy was won by our village's own Mr Tony King with a brilliant four under par round of 68.

During the evening's presentation dinner, and to the plaudits of club members and their wives, Tony received the Trophy from Mrs Janet Lugg, wife of the founder of Knighton Enterprises. Well done Tony!

John Stiles

CHARNEY ARMY

We had a disappointing turn-out in August when no doubt holidays were taking their toll. However, the three loyal men and true who did turn up diverted their attention from the copse on Charney Field to remove a conifer from Ock Green. The Army will

continue with clearing out the copse and excellent progress has been made.

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

Although it was reported in Cherbury News that the application to extend Mount Pleasant had been withdrawn, the withdrawal was a technical one to avoid exceeding the target date for dealing with it. A revised application has been received with very little difference in the outward appearance of the extension.

An application has been received for an extension at No. 2 Orchard Close.

Development of the barns at Goosey Wick Farm continues and as this borders the parish, The Council is kept informed. If you want to know more about this development, the plans are available for perusal.