

**PUBLISHED BY  
CHARNEY BASSETT  
PARISH COUNCIL**

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**Your councillors:-**

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Jim Harper (Vice-chairman), Barnfield 868288  
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 11th January 2006.**

# Charney Chatter

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2006

## CLERK'S CORNER

### Chapel Lane

Apologies to the (few) residents of Chapel Lane who were erroneously relocated to Chapel Way in the last edition!

### Planning

Applications for changes to Charney Manor and for a conservatory at "Oldwalls", Buckland Road have been received. The Council has no comment to make on these.

### Council membership

Penny McGuire has resigned from the Council and there's been a notice on the Notice Board inviting nominations for an election of a replacement. None has been

forthcoming so the Council is now free to co-opt a new councillor to restore the Council to its full complement of five. If you want to learn more about the duties of a councillor, please contact me.

### Council meetings in 2006

Council meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the odd-numbered months. The actual dates for 2006 are: January 11th, March 8th, May 10th (Parish Assembly), July 12th, September 13th, November 8th. Meetings are held in the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. and rarely last more than two hours. Come along and find out how your village is managed!

## THE CHEQUERS

### Tony Fitzgibbon writes:-

"Tony, Sue, Jessica & Phil will be leaving 'The Chequers' in the middle of January for pastures new. We have thoroughly enjoyed our eighteen months in Charney Bassett and would like to thank all the villagers that have supported us. The twelve or so know who they are!!

It is a shame that the village pub is not thought of as the centre of the village as it could be used for so many activities and meetings. I say this because without this support it is in grave danger of closing and yet another village pub will be lost forever.

W.H. Brakspear & Sons have now purchased The Chequers and we wish the new tenants every success and hope you will support them".

*[Note from the Ed:- I contacted Brakspear's for a contribution but they explained that they are still looking for a replacement licensee and can't say much at this stage. They will, however contribute to a future issue. On behalf of my fellow pensioners I commended Pensioners' Perks to them!! Meanwhile, note Tony's comment about support - if you don't use it, you lose it! Best wishes to them all in their new pastures.]*

## VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT

A couple of interesting environmental developments are worth reporting in this issue.

CHAFT are proposing to build a "living willow" structure on Charney Field. Living willow structures are created by planting willow "whips" that root and grow to form a barrier or hedge.

The planned design for the structure consists of two interlocking tunnels that form a toroidal shape with a central area for the main harbour. The diameter of the central area is approximately 3 metres and the tunnels are 1 metre wide and 1.5 metres high. This design is based on a structure built on the playing field at Great Coxwell (*worth a visit to see it - Ed!*).

A Village Willow Day will be held on Sunday 5th February after the ground has been prepared by the Charney Army. The tunnel and harbour will be constructed by village volunteers (especially children), with appropriate consultation and supervision from Norah Kennedy, an expert in willow weaving and structures, who was consultant to and supervised the construction of the Great Coxwell willow structure. The structure is expected to provide excitement, adventure and

education on growing plants and trees for young children and teenagers. The time to plant willow whips successfully is limited to late Winter/early Spring while the willow remains dormant. The cost of the structure is £780 and grants are being sought to ensure the project can proceed in 2006.

The other possible development is the creation of a village pond. Jim Harper has followed up the suggestion in the last issue and been active in determining whether this is feasible. He has consulted with the Pond Action Group from Oxford Brookes University, a body recommended by the Vale Council which has visited the proposed site - the old river bed at Ock Green.

The PAG believe a pond could be created. It would retain the Green intact but there are several questions which need to be answered before taking this further. Permission of the Environment Agency will be needed and previous discussions with this body have not been very positive. The water table needs to be found and there is the question of interference with plans to get the Mill running again. Watch this space!

## HEADLINES

- *Village Willow Day - 5th February.*
- *Return of the tadpole?*
- *Join the Charney Army!*
- *The Chequers to change hands.*
- *Call 0845 8 505 505 for non-emergencies!*

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The **Village Coffee Hour** resumes on Tuesday January 17th from 10.30-11.30.

Do call in and chat. 50 pence buys you as much tea or coffee that you can drink - and there are biscuits too!

Deadline for copy for the next edition in March 2006: 20 February 2006

Contributions are welcome, in fact desperately needed! Adverts are free!

Charney Chatter can be e-mailed free to anyone giving their e-mail address to the Editor

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## VILLAGE COLLEGE

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For information on current Village College activities (Yoga, Pilates, table tennis etc.), or suggestions for future courses you'd like to see laid on, contacts are:-

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

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## FROM YOUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR

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The issue causing the County Council most concern at the moment is housing allocation, resulting in a heated debate at the November Full Council meeting. Options were Bicester/Didcot or Bicester/Didcot/Grove. Some of us felt that there should be a third option, building on the green belt around Oxford. We argued that Oxford City wants them and the infrastructure, e.g. schools and transport, already exists there. However, we were also very committed to maintain the total amount of green belt.

The argument was lost and the Council is to advise its Cabinet to choose Bicester/Didcot. The Cabinet will now need to make a judgement and advise the South East Regional Assembly (did you know we had one?) which will advise The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. I think things could still change on this and I will keep you informed.

During "Citizenship and Democracy" month, the County Council asked us to visit schools in our area to talk to the pupils about this subject. I was invited to John Blandy School in Southmoor and Stanford-in-the-Vale CE Primary school. I was pleasantly surprised by the knowledge and intelligent questions of the children. I spent a very good two hours in each school and had a wonderful time answering their questions. Particularly the little chap who asked me "So how much do you earn then?" If that's raised a few questions in your minds, it's a matter of public record and can be found on the web site of the County Council ([www.oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk)).

As usual, if you have any problems, I can be contacted on:

Tel: 01865 820385 Fax: 01865 821493  
 E-mail: [melinda.tilley@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:melinda.tilley@oxfordshire.gov.uk)  
**Melinda Tilley, County Councillor**  
 Kingston Bagpuize Division.

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## FROM YOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

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Since I last wrote in this space I have visited many local business and groups across the constituency. These visits are particularly useful if I am able to follow them up once back in Westminster. An example of this is scientific publishing with major firms such as CABI and Reed Elsevier based nearby. In order to protect this dynamic and innovative industry from government interference I spoke in a Westminster debate on the publishing of scientific journals. As with all my parliamentary work the speech is on my web site ([www.vaizey.com](http://www.vaizey.com)).

I have also been pressing the government on international issues and as you read this I am on a visit to India; I will report back.

Surgery dates in January are 13th Wantage, Civic Hall, Waylands Room, 20th Wallingford, Town Hall, 27th Faringdon, Corn Exchange. As always they are 5.30 – 7pm.

My contact details are:-  
 House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA.  
 Tel: 0207 219 6350 and  
 E-mail: [vaizeye@parliament.uk](mailto:vaizeye@parliament.uk).

**Ed Vaizey MP**

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## "IS IT ME?" - ANOTHER GEOFF RUMBLE GRUMBLE

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Members of the Parish Council periodically receive large brown envelopes from Peter Davies which contain a range of documents for circulation between meetings. A recent one contained The Local Council Review, which is the journal of The National Association of Local Councils. I quote from this:

*"The Parish Council is the most local tier of governance and is at the front of the Government's modernising agenda for local government and communities. New Localism*

*is pivotal to Government thinking about the best way to deliver services and engage local citizens. Parish Councils are being held up as beacons of citizen engagement and local service delivery. So it seems the role of Parish and Town Councils is set to become cutting edge policy for citizen engagement and empowerment as the principles of New Localism develop into policy and practice."*

So watch out! As soon as we understand what they are talking about we may leap into action, or perhaps just lose the will to live?

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## CHARNEY ARMY

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We meet regularly at 10.00 a.m. on the last Thursday of each month (except December 2005 when the weather was inclement!). We need more recruits so if you'd like to join, please e-mail the Editor, or just turn up!

Next task is preparation for the construction of a willow structure on Charney Field,

details of which appear on the front page. A date for this preparation work, which involves removal of turf by machine, laying down bark chippings and building seats, will be sent to members by e-mail. The work has to be done before the 5th of February.

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## POLICE COMMUNICATIONS - IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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There is to be a further change in the arrangements the police have set up for dealing with non-emergency calls. The definition of a non-emergency call is one made in circumstances where an emergency call to 999 or 112 (did you know this is an alternative to 999?) is not justified but contact with the police to convey information or report an incident is needed. The number you should ring, which has been advertised in this publication before, is **0845 8 505 505**. This will put you through to one of the two Police Enquiry Centres (PECs) at Kidlington or Windsor. Why not programme this number into your mobile or home phone memory now, just in case?

The change referred to is that the other non-emergency numbers which supposedly put you through to your local station are being phased out with effect from the end of January 2006. The number in question in our area, (01235 767000) appeared to be a Wantage number when in reality it also put you through to a PEC. Taking this number out of use should simplify contact with the police and there should be no doubt which number to ring in future.

In my experience, contact with TVP is best through our local bobby, PC Martyn Holder and his numbers are 012367 870232 (home) and 07970 145294 (mobile). If you can't contact him, then ring **0845 8 505 505**.