

Charney Chatter

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SEPTEMBER 2006

PUBLISHED BY CHARNEY BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

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Your councillors:-

Geoff Beer (Chairman), Buckland Rd. 868709
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Geoff Rumble, Buckland Road 868738
John Stiles, Barnfield 868191
Jos Bath, Buckland Road 868260

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 September 2006.

ADVERTS AND EVENTS

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 on 868646. Proceeds to a number of charities.

Village Diner

The Village Diner continues to provide excellent home-made food from local sources served by attractive waitresses in a happy community environment in Buckland Village Hall, every third Wednesday in the month.

For £4 you get a splendid meal, tea or coffee and a chat. Next date 20th September.

Southmoor Village Hall Event

Sunday 15th October the Theatre of Widdershins will perform The Three Billy Goats Gruff and other furry tails, fantastic tales from the Magic Land of Three. Suitable for anyone aged 3 and over. Performances 1.30 and 4 p.m. Tickets £5 from Julia (01865 821077). Proceeds to Southmoor Preschool's New Building Project.

UPON MY WORD!

Jim Harper, fully paid up member of the Barnfield boffins, notes, in a recycling context, that a three foot high pile of newspapers is equivalent to an average tree. Wood you believe it?!!

THANKS FROM NAN SHARPUS

Thank you very much for all my lovely cards and presents for my 90th birthday.

Thank you to Eunice and Marian for a very

happy Coffee Hour.

[The celebrations of this significant milestone are recorded on the village web site - Ed]

SPORTS NEWS - FROM OUR GOLFING CORRESPONDENT

On the professional golf tour there's the obligatory new BMW, Jaguar or Mercedes car to be won for a hole in one at a pre-determined par three.

Carswell Golf Club doesn't quite run to a new car, but in Tuesday's Seniors competition there's a substantial prize for a birdie or better at the pre-determined par three hole. *[N.B. for non golfers a birdie on a par three means*

two strokes: a drive and only one putt - Ed]

And guess what? No, the village's own Tony King wasn't able to defend the trophy he won in 2005, but as if to make up for that he birdied the par three and won himself £110. Congratulations Tony.

[Tony's good luck has been drawn to the attention of the Amateur Status Committee of the Royal and Ancient - Ed]

Deadline for copy for the next edition in November 2006: 20 October 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

CHURCH FETE - SEPTEMBER 16TH

Below is a list of some of the needs of the Fete on September 16th and the contact for each of them:-

PLANTS: Sue Wales 868182

BOTTLES & CANS: Wine, beer, spirits, pop, toiletries, cans. Lucy Gildersleeves 868782

BOOKS: Books, CDs, DVDs, videos, etc. Marian Gardiner 868319
CAKES, PRODUCE, JAM and JELLY: Mary Daghish 868557 - she can freeze cakes if you're baking now!

BRIC-A-BRAC: Unwanted or surplus items Lucy 868782

CHILDREN'S THINGS: Good quality toys, games, toiletries, sweets, knick-knacks. Tracey Burge 868897.

PROMISES: What skills are you hiding? Are you a whiz at ironing? Can you valet a car? Can you cook a gourmet meal? Offer a promise for auction. Tracey 868897.

GRAND PRIZE DRAW: Sell some tickets to your family and friends, in your road or at work. David & Barbara Douglas 868788.

A HELPING HAND: Can you help to put up gazebos or set up stalls before the Fête? Will you run a stall, if only for an hour? Can you help to clear up? Lucy 868782.

CHAFT 100 CLUB

Winners of the July draw were:-

Viviane Callaghan (79): £25 and Kay Adamson (96): £10

CHARNEY VILLAGE COLLEGE

The following courses are planned for the Winter term although not all dates are yet confirmed:-

Yoga - Friday evenings - new term starting 22 September
Pilates - Friday mornings - currently full with a waiting list
Flower Arranging - new term starting in late-Autumn
A number of one-day workshops are also planned in:-

- Card making
- Basket Making
- Willow (Christmas decorations)

For further information please contact Jackie Cross on 01235 868575 or alternatively villagecollege@hotmail.com

HEADLINES

- *Can you help with the Fete?*
- *All change at The Chequers (again!).*
- *New beat bobby takes over.*
- *OCC is de-cluttering!*
- *The circus is in the village!*
- *PC 5663 Salway takes over.*

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The **Village Coffee Hour** is on Tuesday mornings from 10.30-11.30 in the Village Hall and it resumes on September 12th until December 12th.

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

COUNTY COUNCIL NEWS

The Council's policy for de-cluttering roads of signs has gone down well with the people of Oxfordshire and will begin with The High in the centre of Oxford. If you have any burning desire to get rid of some road clutter, please let me know and I will put in your bid.

The Council is very worried about NHS problems in Oxfordshire. The Radcliffe has a huge deficit and the Primary Care Trusts are still being reorganised. Government plans to free up beds will mean people being released earlier (possibly too early) and being placed in the community with aftercare provided by Social Services. However, the Government's social services grant to The Council has been cut! The situation is becoming impossible.

You may have heard something about Local Government re-organisation in the news recently. David Miliband proposes to ask Local Authorities if they wish to become Unitary Authorities. Oxfordshire currently has two-tier Local Government: five District Councils and the County Council.

THE CHEQUERS

The Chequers pub is under new management (again!). After some recent uncertainty as to its future, it is now in the hands of a new team which augurs well for its long-term future. Phil and Poppy Leach, with their children William and Emily, have returned from Devon to take over although they are almost "locals" having come originally from Wootton.

They've already made a number of changes, notably complete refurbishment of the kitchen so that they can do justice to a revised menu. They have positive plans to improve the pub internally and externally and restore it to the flourishing establishment it used to be. In fact,

The Districts deliver about 20% of services including waste collection, benefits, planning and licensing and the County does everything else, including schools, social services and fire services. The suggestion is that we have a single Council covering all services. My own view is that while Unitary Authorities make sense and would be less confusing, the cost of the change would be astronomical. There would also be an issue about representation. At the moment a District Councillor represents around 1,700 electors and a County Councillor about 5,000. So if we went unitary the number represented by a single councillor would increase. The topic will be addressed by a Government White Paper from Ruth Kelly's department (C&LGD) in the autumn and the Lyons Report on local government finance in December, so I will keep you informed later in the year or early next year.

Melinda Tilley, County Councillor
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Tel: 01865 820385

Poppy explained recently that there may well be work being carried out on the pub until Christmas. However, it will be business as usual while this happens.

The menu has changed and Phil expects to introduce further changes as time goes on. Most importantly, the Pensioners' Perks menu has been retained and is now available from 12.30 to 2.00 on Mondays to Thursdays.

Initial reactions to the new team are very favourable and this is borne out by the fact that the pub is noticeably busier at lunchtimes and if you're thinking of indulging in Pensioners' Perks you ought to book to be sure of a table!

POLICE MATTERS

By the time this issue hits the streets, PC Martyn Holder will finally have retired. He has been replaced by PC 5663 Kevin Salway whose mobile number is 07973 534395, or ring him on the non-emergency number 08458 505 505 (but you knew that, didn't you?!)

VALE HOUSING ASSOCIATION

Are you, or is someone you know, looking to move into retirement accommodation? An open day is being held at St Johns Court, Oxford Lane, Grove on Friday 6th October from 10.00 a.m. – 3.00 p.m. Find out more about retirement flats for independent living available for rent in Grove and other areas including Faringdon, Wantage and Abingdon. A range of information about other services which may be useful in retirement will also be available. For details ring Emily Bowsher on 01235 536001 or just turn up on the day.

SOUTH AND VALE CARERS CENTRE

In an average street, one in ten houses will be home to someone who is long-term ill, frail or disabled and looked after by a friend or family member spending at least 10 and sometimes more than 60 hours a week caring for them..

Carers are usually glad of a bit of help. Do you know someone who would appreciate a bit of shopping, baby-sitting, mum-sitting, or just a chat? Caring is not easy, often takes place behind closed doors and can be lonely and stressful. The South & Vale Carers Centre is a local charity that can help with benefits advice, carers breaks and other support. Call them on 01235 510212 for free advice, or e-mail carers@svcarers.org.uk.

HOME-START SOUTHERN OXFORDSHIRE

Volunteers for a home-visiting scheme are needed in and around Faringdon and Wantage. Are you a parent or grandparent? Could you spare a couple of hours a week to offer friendship and support to a family with young children? For more information please contact Lynn Hancock on 01235 511152.

The 5th Annual Family Fun Day and Autumn Fair will be held on Saturday 14th October (11.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.) at Sutton Courtenay Village Hall. Plenty of games and fun activities for children and lots of stalls, many of them local, selling everything from children's rugs and playmates to Christmas decorations and cards, from unique gifts and flowers to handmade jewellery and from bath and beauty products to children's books.

CHURCH FETE THEME

PLEASE JOIN IN WITH OUR CIRCUS THEME! This year it's a circus theme. Can you put a clown or other circus figure in your garden? In past years, Charney Bassett has been bedecked by windmills, scarecrows, and wells! There will be a prize for one lucky entry, drawn at the Fête!