

**PUBLISHED BY
CHARNEY BASSETT
PARISH COUNCIL**

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John Stiles, Barnfield 868191
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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 9th January 2008

ADVERTS AND EVENTS

Personalised Home-made Cards

If you can't find the right card for that special occasion, Eunice will make one for you. Ring her on 868646. Proceeds to charity

Village Diner

The Village Diner provides home-made food from local sources 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 16th January.

Piano Teacher

Liz Cowlam, experienced Piano Teacher qualified to CT ABRSM. Preparation for exams if desired. Tel: 868318.

Village Hall Bookings

Contact Eunice Davies on 868646 with your requirements, both for hire of the Hall itself and the crockery and cutlery.

Help wanted to keep the Church shiny!

Could you spare a short time each month to

polish the brass items in St Peter's Church? Items include several candlesticks, vases and a cross. Polish and cloths can be provided! If you can help or would like more information, please call Tracey Burge on 868897.

Something to look forward to when it's cold & dark!

When you get hold of your 2008 diary, please pencil in the Charney Church Fête for 21 June and the Meal on the Green for 12 July. More details and timings to follow nearer the dates!

Newspapers

The Log Cabin at Southmoor has started a newspaper round in Charney Bassett and delivery charges are cheaper than Rowe's!

WANTED!

Students for computing and digital photography courses being planned for the Village College. Contact Jos Bath (868260) for more details.

100 CLUB WINNERS

The Christmas draw, held on 20th December, was the big one! Winner of the £100 prize was Phyllis Mills (125) and second prize of £50 went to Peter & Julie Leaver (53).

CLET

Charney and Lyford Education Trust, CLET, supports a range of educational projects, with grants awarded both to individuals under the age of 25 and to the community in Charney Bassett and Lyford. Applications will be considered by the Trustees who meet in January, May and September. Details from the Clerk: Frances Rothwell, "Oldwalls", Buckland Road, Tel: 868704 E-mail: fc.rothwell@tiscali.co.uk.

BIRD AND BAT BOXES

As reported in the Charney Field update elsewhere, now that the white poplars have been removed, the mature trees along the bridle path can be seen. This gives us an opportunity to increase the wild life population on the Field by placing bird and bat boxes on them.

To make this a community effort, arrangements have been made for a box building session to be held in the Old Stables Barn on The Green on Saturday morning, January 12th from 10.00 a.m. to noon. Rather than buying ready-made boxes, we'd like to invite you to make your own from materials provided.

Members of the Charney Army will be on hand to help you assemble pre-cut kits into both bird and bat boxes, the choice is yours. As well as bat boxes there will be bird boxes specially designed for tits, robins, sparrows, finches etc. The Army will then place these on suitable trees where you can identify your own box and keep an eye on the birds or bats attracted to them.

The box kits will be designed so

that children can assemble them themselves with just a screwdriver (and maybe a bit of help from Dad!). The cost will be £10 per box with any profits from this event going to the Village Hall Project fund.

We will only build a limited number of boxes so if you'd like to own one, do place your order as soon as possible. If you'd like a bird box, please indicate the birds you'd like to attract so that one can be reserved for you. If we do get a huge demand, boxes can be taken home rather than be placed on Charney Field.

Highlight of the morning will be the presence of Dave Endacott MBE, from the Oxfordshire Bat Group, who will bring some live bats for you to see in close up. They are cute little creatures and don't believe the rubbish about them getting caught up in your hair!

Let Derek McClintock (868817) or Lucy Gildersleeves (868782) know your requirements as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

HEADLINES

- *Come and see a live bat close up!*
- *Charney Field tree planting scheme*
- *All change at The Chequers - again!.*

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Coffee Hour sessions in the Village Hall on Tuesdays (10.30-11.30) will resume on 8th January and run until 18th March. Call in and chat. 50p buys you as much tea or coffee as you can drink - with biscuits too! Everyone welcome!

Deadline for copy for the next edition in March 2008: 20 February 2008
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

Visit www.charneybassettpc.org.uk for the very latest village news

CHARNEY FIELD TREES

As many of you will know, the southern area of Charney Field, which had become overgrown by white poplar saplings, has now been cleared by Charney Army and levelled in preparation for replanting with non-invasive, indigenous trees and shrubs. Trees take time to grow and must be planted at this time of year to give them the best chance of rooting and becoming quickly established. CHAFT has therefore placed an order with Woodbridge Nurseries in Longworth and the saplings will be available for planting in February.

To minimise the delay for the planted trees to become established, CHAFT has chosen in the main, 8-10ft saplings and the total cost of these is nearly £800. With all the current fund-raising being carried out for the hall development project it is wonderful to see that nearly half the cost of the trees has already been pledged. If you are interested in supporting the planting scheme, donations can be made via the CHAFT Treasurer, Geoff

Rumble at Northmead, Buckland Road (Cheques payable to CHAFT) and for those who are interested in sponsoring specific trees, we have a range available from £6.75 for a 3ft holly to £48 for a 10ft Sorbus Commixta Rowan. Also, if you are making a donation and are not already registered with CHAFT for Gift-Aid, please consider this as it adds more than 20% to the value of your gift.

Tree planting is a particular priority at the moment but it is also planned to put up bird boxes on the mature white poplar trees that line the end of the field (see cover page) and to construct paths through the planting area. Financial and practical help for these activities would be much appreciated.

The next CHAFT meeting when this, as well as the hall project, will be discussed, is planned to be on Wednesday 23rd January and all are welcome.

Geoff Rumble

FIRST AID TRAINING

The Village College has organised a St John Ambulance First Aid training day in the Village Hall on Wednesday 5th March, starting at 9.15 a.m. Training will be given in basic and emergency first aid suitable for those stewarding at local horse riding events and

people working with children.

Up to 12 students are required to run the course which will cost £25 per head. There is likely to be a good demand for places so please contact Jos Bath on 868260 as soon as possible to book your place.

ALTERNATIVE THERAPY DAY

The Alternative Therapy Day announced in the last issue is still on - but not yet! Unforeseen circumstances require that the event be put back to the Spring. For those who didn't see the original item, Rona Bennett - Village College Pilates Group tutor - has suggested an "Alternative Therapy Day" as a way to raise funds for the Village Hall Project. There seems to be enthusiastic support for this sug-

gestion which might also include other interest activities to widen the appeal. The event is not intended to be for women only - and we would hope to widen the scope beyond Charney and Lyford.

A new date will be announced as soon as one can be fixed but if you want to know more, contact Frances Rothwell on 868704.

FROM YOUR MP - ED VAIZEY

I wrote my column for December in mid-November. I wasn't yet in festive mode so stupidly forgot to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Anyway, I hope you all had a good break.

Sadly the New Year is not going to start very well. By the time you read this, the Post Office, displaying peculiar sensitivity, will have announced which Post Offices are set to close in the constituency. I know of at least one, possibly two, that have been earmarked for closure. The public are being told in January. There is then a six week consultation period running from early February until mid-March, and the final decision is made in May.

The Post Office has been told to close 2,500 Post Offices across the country, and I doubt they will listen much to our protests. Nevertheless, if your local Post office is set to close, please write or e-mail me setting out how important the local Post Office is to you. I need genuine letters - everyone will be doing petitions and we need to stand out. Certainly the Post Office that I know is earmarked for closure is a prime example of a shop at the heart of its community providing a much-needed service. I will fight to keep it and the

others open.

The other piece of bad news is that the new timetable from First Great Western does not seem to have made much difference - although I am pleased that much of the Appleford service has apparently survived. I have been getting letters from angry commuters unhappy with the service and the overcrowding. So no doubt 2008 will carry on much as 2007 in this regard.

Thames Water will be pushing hard to get approval for its reservoir, and as I have repeatedly stated, I remain sceptical about whether it is needed, and will continue to fight the proposal. We will also hear more about the Government's plans for yet more housing in the south east, again an issue of huge concern, especially if there is no money to upgrade our over-stretched road network.

Thanks to all of you who responded to my last column giving me your views on the new proposals on detention without trial, and on staying on in education until 18. I really do appreciate hearing from you.

Next local surgery: Faringdon Corn Exchange Friday 25th January at 5.30 p.m.

THE CHEQUERS

I don't know how many times changes at The Chequers have been reported in the Chatter but this time it really does look like a permanent change has been made.

New tenants are a delightful couple from Eastern Europe, Husnu from Turkey and Roberta from Hungary. They have been settling in over the last few weeks and an indication that they intend to stay came from Roberta who reported that they'd replaced the carpets upstairs!

Little has changed on the menu but that's not

surprising as they find their feet but personal experience of what is on the menu has been excellent. No doubt some fare from their respective home countries will appear in due course. They are both keen to stress that they do not intend to make significant changes to anything and are committed to maintaining The Chequers as a friendly country pub. They will be overseeing a major internal refurbishment during January but expect to keep the pub fully functioning while this happens. Do go along and support your local.