

Charney Chatter

NUMBER 28

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**PUBLISHED BY
CHARNEY BASSETT
PARISH COUNCIL**

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Your councillors:-

Geoff Rumble (Chairman), Buckland Road 868738
Jim Harper (Vice-chairman), Barnfield 868288
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 9th July, 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, at 12.15 p.m. every third Wednesday in the month. For £4 you get a two-course meal, tea or coffee and a chat. Next date: 16th July.

Village Hall Bookings

Contact Eunice Davies on 868646 for hire of the Hall, crockery, cutlery and the gazebos.

WANTED - Project Manager

Elisabeth Dahele, will be leaving the village in the next couple of months. A Project Manager for the £130,000 Village Hall Project is therefore urgently needed to replace her. The design is complete and ready for tendering, so all the hard work has been done and it's a piece of cake from now on!

Date for your Diary

Garden Party in the Manor grounds, Thursday afternoon, August 7th. Details later

Two events will be held on July 12th:-

Companion Dog Show

Registration from 1.00 p.m., Show starts 2.00 p.m.

Venue: the Buchanans' Paddock, The Green
Judge: Beryl Smith

Contact Yvonne Hobbs on 868428 for more details.

Meal on the Green

Meal on the Green and Ceilidh on the Village Green, 7.00 for 7.30 p.m. until late.

Pig Roast or vegetarian alternative; choice of desserts

Please bring your own cutlery, crockery and glasses.

Drinks not included - bring your own or buy from the Chequers

Dance the evening away to live music from local Ceilidh band the Larkrise Ranters.

Raffle; Prize for best dressed table

Tickets: £14 for adults; £6 for children (4-11s); under-4s free - from Lucy Gildersleeves, 868782

CHURCH FÊTE - JUNE 21ST

Thanks to everyone who contributed to a successful fête especially the sponsors and Abingdon Estates in particular. The sum raised was just under £2,000.

The PCC

A big THANK YOU to all of you who made cakes for the fête. Thank you too to my three hard-working and willing helpers. Refreshments raised just over £240.

Eunice Davies

Deadline for copy for the next edition in September 2008: 20 August 2008

Contributions are welcome, preferably by e-mail. Adverts are free!

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

EDITORIAL

As we approach the anniversary of the serious flooding in July 2007, in common with other parts of the country, some residents affected by flooding are still not straight. Worse than that, heavy rain a couple of weeks ago took at least three properties in Charney Bassett literally to within inches of flooding again. Some properties in Lyford were not so lucky.

After the 2007 floods, a meeting of affected residents and the parish council resolved to take what action it could to minimise the risk of further flooding. It has to be said that such action has not been forthcoming except to maintain pressure on the Vale Council but that also has had little effect.

The one notable exception in this situation has been Colin McGuire who has spent a lot of money clearing out ditches on his property boundaries - a duty which all landowners have - and this has already had an effect in preventing flooding of Denchworth Road. The Vale Council has been putting pressure on other landowners to do something similar - as yet with no response.

So, from his position on the moral high ground (which doesn't flood!), Colin has effectively thrown out a

challenge to galvanise the village to take action to clear out all the drainage ditches in and around the village to try and ensure that there are no obstructions to flood water should another incident of extremely heavy rain occur.

A "round robin" has been e-mailed out and there have been some positive responses. The Vale Council has provided a detailed OS map of the drainage ditches and the Environment Agency, which used to look after these ditches, has offered to give advice, although this seems mainly to be warnings about the law on maintaining watercourses!

The intention now is to convene another meeting of affected residents and those offering to help, with a view to compiling an action plan. This meeting will be held as soon as some key individuals are back from holidays. The action plan will address issues such as the equipment and human resources needed and the ditches which need most urgent attention. Flooding will be on the agenda of the next parish council meeting on July 9th but don't wait until then, if you'd like to help, please tell The Clerk and he'll keep you informed. Watch the village web site for updates on progress.

HEADLINES

- Action against flooding.
- Good progress on Village Hall Project funding.
- Fête raised nearly £2,000.

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Coffee Hour sessions continue in the Village Hall on Tuesdays (10.30-11.30) until July 22nd. Call in and chat. 50p buys you as much tea or coffee as you can drink - with biscuits too! Everyone welcome!

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

NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION GROUP - NAG2

Neighbourhood policing aims to put the “local” back into local policing. With this aim in mind, Thames Valley Police has been setting up Neighbourhood Action Groups (NAGs). Charney Bassett (together with 16 other villages) is covered by Faringdon East NAG - also known as NAG2.

This is the first of a series of updates on the activities of NAG2.

Speeding

Speeding was identified as the number one item of concern in the NAG2 area during the consultation process held last year. Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) have been used at various locations throughout the area on a regular basis to encourage drivers to comply with the law. However, recent initiatives have shown a significant number of drivers continue to exceed speed limits in the villages.

Several locations have been identified with speeding problems including:-

East and West Hanney (7 - 8 a.m. and 6 - 7 p.m.), Longworth (near the school and pre-school), Fernham Road, Shellingford (during rush hours), Church Street Shellingford (during rush hours), Cottage Road/Bow Road Stanford-in-the-Vale, A417.

If there are other roads in the area where you believe speeding is prevalent please contact 08458 505 505 or email farindon.east@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

NAG2 believes stricter enforcement is necessary and County Council Road Safety Officers have been asked to place temporary speed recording strips at known “hot spots” in the villages to provide additional evidence on speeding. It has also been confirmed that arrangements are in hand for local neighbourhood officers to be trained in the use of hand held speed detection equipment to provide a greater deterrent against speeding. Mobile camera enforcement will also continue to be used at approved locations.

Village Representation.

NAG2 needs additional volunteers with enthusiasm and local knowledge so it can fully represent the geographical area it serves.

At present the volunteer members of the Group are:- Ray Woodyear (Chairman) West Hanney, Kay Sayers, West Hanney, Peter Davies (Minute Secretary) Charney Bassett, David Sibbert, Charney Bassett, Mick Green, East Hanney, John Melling, Southmoor & Kingston Bagpuize.

Are you willing to volunteer your services or do you know someone who might be interested in using their skills to help the Group respond to problems identified by local communities? If so, please contact the Police on 08458 505 505 or email farindon.east@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Environmental Audits and Anti-Social Behaviour

The Police have been undertaking audits in each NAG area to record ongoing environmental issues which impact on local communities in a negative way, for example noisy neighbours, graffiti, fly-tipping, litter, vandalism, abandoned vehicles, parking issues, drug and substance abuse, collapsed kerbs etc.

Not all these issues are the sole responsibility of the Police and NAG2 will work in partnership with other relevant public bodies to address unresolved problems with a view to discouraging anti-social activities.

Although the audit has revealed relatively few significant problems at the present time, NAG2 has agreed to take action from time to time to use its emerging consultation network to remind the public of the importance of reporting anti-social behaviour of this nature direct to the responsible agencies so that community concerns are effectively addressed.

FROM YOUR MP - ED VAIZEY

Three enduring themes seem to be ever present this year - with both a local and a national impact. The first is Post Offices. We heard recently that all 22 Post Offices earmarked for closure in Oxfordshire will indeed close. That includes five in the immediate area, which will have an impact on the quality of life of many people in the villages. Local people campaigned very hard to keep their services and I worked closely with them. For one Post Office in particular, I received more than 150 letters, but to no avail. I think that as more and more services are withdrawn from the Post Office, more will close in the future. We have not heard the last of this issue by any stretch.

The second issue is science. Problems with the science budget have seen voluntary redundancies at Harwell, and there has been huge concern in the physics community across the country about what is happening. I have been very involved with the campaign to try and restore some of the funding. Now the House of Commons' Science and Technology Committee has weighed in and called for the funding to be restored and jobs to be saved.

We will see what happens.

Third, flooding. Neighbouring MP David Cameron held a debate on the floods in the House of Commons at the beginning of May, and highlighted the need for more to be done to clear brooks and ditches to try and minimise the impact of future floods. I also participated, but did not get the chance, in the short debate, to raise concerns about the impact of local developments on flood risk.

Finally, I have just got my first satnav unit, which I now use all the time, even though nine times out of ten I don't need to. I point this out as no doubt satnav will take me through Charney all the time, as it seems to do with the huge lorries that are damaging the bridge. We will have to try and get the maps changed!

You can contact me at the House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA, on 0207 219 6350 or at vaizeye@parliament.uk, my website can be found at www.vaizey.com

Next local surgery (from 5.30 to 7.00 p.m.)

Faringdon Corn Exchange 5th September

CLET

Charney and Lyford Education Trust, CLET, supports a range of educational projects, with grants both to individuals under the age of 25 and to the community in Charney 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.

100 CLUB DRAW

The May draw was made on June 3rd at Coffee Hour. Winner of the £25 first prize was Mrs Beryl Puckett (18) and of the second £10 prize, Doug Hughes (50).

THE CHEQUERS

The refurbishment project has now been completed and the pub is fully operational - with en suite accommodation as well. Visit the web site at www.chequerscharney.co.uk for full details including on-line accommodation booking, or ring Roberta on (01235) 868642.

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

CHAFT NEWS

Many thanks to everyone who attended the CHAFT AGM in May. A brief summary of CHAFT activities shows just what an exceptional year it has been, and how much has been achieved:

The Village Hall Project:

Fundraising is up from £12,500 to £82,600 (including a £2,000 grant from The Bernard Sunley Charitable Organisation since the AGM). This result is due to generous support from Charney Bassett villagers, Trust for Oxfordshire Environment, (TOE), Oxfordshire County Council, Vale of White Horse District Council, as well as the earlier contributions from the Parish Council and the Doris Field Trust.

Memorable fundraising events during the year included the Musical Soiree, Charney Feast, Craft Sale, Curry Supper and Pub Quiz. Ongoing fundraising includes The 100 Club and Charney Challenge. The current and future focus is to:-

- Target local businesses
- Promote The Charney Challenge - your contribution could be worth so much more!
- Work on a programme of events for the remainder of the year - the first of which is a **Garden Party** in Charney Manor grounds, Thursday afternoon, 7th August - do hope you can join us - more details later

We hope to be able to confirm the Project building contractors and start date for work in the next issue of Charney Chatter

CHARNEY ARMY

The Charney Army has continued its activities, mainly on Charney Field where as well as removing dead elms from along the bridle path it has been cutting back the grass which has been growing at a furious rate. It was pleased to be associated with the planting of the "Venn Tree". There's still plenty to do

Charney Field:

The copse has been re-planted with a wide selection of trees and shrubs. Donations from villagers covered much of the cost, and sponsors participated in planting "their" trees. The Charney Army has continued with ongoing maintenance, which keeps the Field in such good shape. The major contribution to the Field's appearance is the grass cutting by Tim Fitzgerald-O'Connor.

Social Events:

The Fireworks evening was enjoyed by all (and produced a small profit!)

Huge thanks to everyone for their effort, support, donations, hospitality and encouragement during the past year

Thanks also to the outgoing Committee. The 2008/09 CHAFT Committee is:

Chair: Vacant - 'rotating' chair.

Vice-Chair: Lucy Gildersleeves (KHAOS Youth Group/Feast W/P leader).

Treasurer: Geoff Rumble (Charney Army/PCC liaison/Field W/P leader).

Secretary: Frances Rothwell (Village Representative).

Hall Bookings: Eunice Davies (Coffee Hour).

Kay Adamson (Village Representative).

Peter Davies (Village College).

David Douglas (Parochial Church Council).

Sally Ewins (Village Representative).

Anna Greenacre (Village Representative).

Val Rose (Village Representative).

Elisabeth Dahele

on the Field but other tasks are beckoning and members are gearing up to tackle ditches.

The Army meets at 10.00 a.m. on the second and last Thursdays of the month, usually on Charney Field. To receive automatic notification of activities send your e-mail address to the Editor.

NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION GROUP - NAG2 (CONTINUED)

Communications Network.

NAG2 is in the process of implementing a simple, flexible and pro-active communications strategy to raise its profile within local communities. As a priority it will promote the business of the group on a regular basis by making increased use of the Neighbourhood Action Group pages on the Thames Valley Police website, (www.thamesvalley.police.uk).

Electronic messaging will be used to notify Parish Council Clerks, Editors of local newsletters and magazines and village

websites, Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators and NAG2 members of each update. This is intended to keep local communities informed and up to date.

In addition, NAG2 will keep local communities vigilant and alert by distributing short, sharp, advisory messages and "community safety tips" via this electronic messaging network, linked to relevant core information on the Police web site where appropriate. NAG2 will work closely with the Neighbourhood Watch Organisation to avoid overlaps and duplication.

Dave Sibbert

COUNTY COUNCIL NEWS

It has been a busy time for me just lately as I have been doing the rounds of Parish AGMs.

The problems most common are: the state of the roads, speeding and the fear of more flooding.

I have reported to the Highways Department that all of the roads in Kingston Bagpuize Division are worn at the edges and have lots of potholes. So, we are on the list for repairs. This includes all the rural roads through Charney Bassett, Hinton Waldrist, Longworth, Buckland, Pusey, Gainfield, Hatford and Bow Road in Stanford-in-the-Vale.

The speeding issue is one for Thames Valley Police, but the County Council is keen on bringing in 20mph speed limits in the City and some of the main Towns of Oxfordshire. When that has been done, I am hoping to request the same for some of the worst roads in our villages.

The flooding issue is ongoing and, unfortunately, the money we expected to get from the European Union, for flood defences, has been drastically cut and it is doubtful Oxfordshire will get anything at all.

The County Council is a Corporate Parent to a large number of children. Most are in care homes and some, when possible, are adopted or fostered. The County Council desperately needs more foster carers. If you can do it, or know anyone who may wish to give it a try, please let me know.

If you have any worries or need to contact me about anything I can be found as follows:

Melinda Tilley, Kingston Bagpuize Division.
Tel: 01865 820385. Mob: 07816 834234
E-mail: melinda.tilley@oxfordshire.gov.uk

VILLAGE COLLEGE

Pilates, Yoga and another Flower Arranging course with six sessions continue.

The five-week Digital Photography course was a great success and more are planned.

We still need more students to enrol for Yoga

as diminishing numbers mean we might have to raise the fees to an unacceptable level to break even.

For details of all College courses contact Jos Bath on 868260.