

**PUBLISHED BY
CHARNEY BASSETT
PARISH COUNCIL**

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Your councillors:-

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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 8th July 2009

Charney Chatter

NUMBER 34

JULY 2009

ADVERTS AND EVENTS

Personalised Hand-made Cards

Can't find the right card for that special occasion? Eunice will make one for you. Ring her on 868646. Proceeds to the Village Hall Project.

Village Hall Bookings

Village Hall bookings will obviously be suspended while the extension work is going on. However, contact Eunice Davies on 868646 for hire of crockery, cutlery and the gazebos.

Table Tennis

Interested in playing table tennis in the Village Hall? Contact Dave Sibbert on 868734 for more details.

Charney Bassett and Lyford Educational Trust (CLET)

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

Applications will be considered by the Trustees who meet in January, May and September. For further details please contact the Clerk: Mrs Frances Rothwell, Oldwalls, Buckland Road, Charney Bassett, Tel: 868704, E-mail: fc.rothwell@tiscali.co.uk

The next meeting of the CLET Trustees will be on Wednesday 2nd September. Forms for

applications to be considered at this meeting may be obtained from the Clerk and should be returned to her as soon as possible.

Charney Rangers FC

Any children interested in playing, please contact Bernard Townsend on 01235 868181, Mobile: 07747 094351 or Mr D Kitchen on 07823 446757.

The Chequers

Husnu and Roberta at the Chequers have introduced a new lunchtime special menu served from noon to 2.00 p.m., Tuesday to Saturday. One course is only £5.95, two are £8.95 and three £9.95. This is excellent value for quality food. Do support your local pub!

Home Insurance - Neighbourhood Watch

Thames Valley Police report that CASE Insurance is now doing a new policy for home insurance for Neighbourhood Watch Areas which offers a discount of up to 20% for households within active Neighbourhood Watch Areas and which is simple and easy to buy online. CASE are also offering 30% no claims discount for both buildings and contents. More details are available at www.caseinsurance.co.uk/homeinsurance.

As a matter of interest, the Parish Council has just switched its insurance to CASE as it offers better terms and conditions and is cheaper than the previous insurer.

VILLAGE HALL PROJECT IS GO!

Earlier this year, the estimated cost of the village hall modernisation project was more than the total money raised over the last four years and an urgent appeal was made to see if we could borrow £20,000 from villagers, to bridge the funding gap, with the knowledge that it would take many years of further fundraising to pay everyone back. The results of the appeal were far, far better than could be hoped and we have received pledges of gifts that total nearly £15,000. On top of this, we will be able to claim over £3,000 gift aid next year.

That was the first piece of good news. The second is that the foundations of parts of the building, which were thought to be inadequate for the building work planned, have been viewed by the Building Inspector and will not require any "underpinning".

The third piece of good news is that we now have an estimated cost for the work that is approximately 10% below our working figure and will allow the project to go ahead with a safe contingency.

Detailed discussions with the builder with the best quotation have taken place and loose ends have been tidied up. We are now in a position to sign a contract with E.C. Hughes & Son and it is expected that the work will start at the beginning of August.

Arrangements for alternative accommodation for Hall users are being made. For more details contact Eunice on 868646.

Geoff Rumble
CHAFT Treasurer

Stop Press

Preliminary work has actually started on the Hall Project. On Thursday 25th June the Charney Army flexed its muscles and demolished the brick outhouse behind the Hall. This was clearly the Hall loo many years ago but it was not built like the proverbial and it quickly succumbed to some hefty blows with sledge hammers.

We are particularly grateful to Neil Walker and Katy Dedman of New Manor Farm who provided a digger (and driver - Sean McClintock) equipped with a large bucket to remove the debris, saving the cost of a skip. Next job - demolish the old wooden shed!

HEADLINES

- *Hall Project to start in August*
- *Villagers concerns analysed by NAG*
- *Charney Rangers FC launched*
- *100 Club under new management*

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There will be no **Coffee Hours** in the Village Hall until further notice.

For further details contact Eunice (868646), Julie (868738) or Mary (858557).

Deadline for copy for the next edition in September 2009: 20 August 2009

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
It's already international with copies going to France, Australia, Japan and Wales!

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

NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION GROUP - NAG2

Latest News - June 2009

The Faringdon East Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG 2) has set new priorities based on the views expressed by residents in a survey undertaken earlier this year.

Priority One : Speeding

Speeding continues to be the number one issue of concern. The Faringdon Neighbourhood Policing Team has been active throughout the area and local neighbourhood officers have been trained in the use of hand-held speed detection equipment to provide a greater deterrent against speeding. Mobile camera enforcement is used at approved locations. County Council Road Safety Officers continue to use Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) at various locations throughout the area to encourage drivers to comply with the law.

The Group is keen to ensure future action is based on facts rather than perceptions and is currently collating relevant speed data to permit more informed discussion at the next meeting.

Priority Two : Criminal Damage and Anti-social Behaviour

A small sub-group led by members from Southmoor and Stanford-in-the-Vale has been set up to study available evidence, including

data provided by Thames Valley Police. They have been asked to produce an action plan to address identified problems for discussion at the next meeting

Priority Three : Parking

The recent survey shows that parking is a significant concern in many villages. The Neighbourhood Policing Team has been active in addressing matters drawn to their attention but has advised that some of the issues raised by residents will be hard to resolve.

The Group believes any further action should be evidence based and is likely to undertake a pilot initiative in one locality to study concerns expressed in the recent survey.

Additional Priority : Litter

The residents survey identified litter as a major area of concern in some villages. It has been agreed that NAG 2 representatives for the affected villages will raise this matter with their local Parish Council in the knowledge that Parish Councils regularly liaise with the White Horse District Council on such matters. The District Council is responsible for the enforcement of relevant legislation and has a specialist team available to help organise local litter picking exercises.

Dave Sibbert

100 CLUB

The running of the 100 Club has been taken over by David and Mahala Nellist, Buckland Road. Geoff and Julie Rumble handed over the reins in time for the "big" June draw.

Geoff and Julie are to be thanked for a major contribution to the Village Hall Project by setting up the club in April 2006, since when proceeds of over £4,000 have been banked.

There are currently 129 members in the Club

but there's room for more if you are not yet a member. Contact David or Mahala on 868593. The June draw was held at the Charney Army meeting at the Village Hall on June 18th. First prize of £50 went to Yvonne Cox (No. 122) and second prize of £25 to The Leavers (No. 56). [Sorry Peter and Julie, the report of £250 on the village web site was a typo, now corrected! - Ed].

FROM YOUR MP - ED VAIZEY

There are a number of campaigns running at the moment.

At the beginning of June, a number of MPs held a debate in Parliament on the behaviour of HBOS, the high street bank. A number of our constituents have been badly hit financially, and they have blamed the behaviour of the Reading office of HBOS. I was representing Justin Riggs, a farmer in the Vale, and Justin and his family came to London to hear the debate in person. We have already had one offer of compensation, and I hope we will get more after the debate.

MPs use debates like this to put pressure on organisations to do the right thing. I have also found myself heading a group of MPs campaigning for compensation for thousands of investors who lost money by buying a financial savings product backed by Lehmans. Although it was guaranteed, when Lehmans went bust, they (including my constituent) lost all their savings. I am hoping to get a debate on this as well.

I also continue to represent pensioners who lost money in Equitable Life, as well as from the Icelandic banks. A lot of people have been very badly treated.

On another front, I am working with other Oxfordshire MPs to get the local Health Trust to change its rules on IVF assisted pregnancy. At the moment, only women aged 35-38 can get the treatment, although national guidelines recommend from the age of 23. As a father of two young children, I know how important children are. In fact my first (successful) case as a candidate was helping a young couple in Grove adopt a baby. I very much hope we can persuade the Trust to change its guidelines to help more

childless couples in Oxfordshire.

I recently visited St John Ambulance in Kidlington to undertake a first aid course. I am campaigning with Beth Chesney Evans, who lost her son in a motor bike accident, to get first aid made compulsory in schools. I learned a lot, it is very straightforward stuff but it does need to be taught and it could save lots of lives in future.

Elsewhere in Parliament, we have put forward a motion to freeze the television licence fee. This may seem like small beer (only £3 a year) but in our view it is a start in stopping the relentless rise in charges and costs of everything in the public sector. Because of the recession, the BBC now has more money than ITV, Channel 4 and Five put together and I am sure it can make savings. I know that, like me, most of my constituents are fans of the BBC, though I get a few letters a year complaining about the heavy handed letters from TV Licensing.

Back in May, I put together a fascinating day at Didcot power station, with many small companies engaged in climate change and energy work. In the end, we talked more about money than energy. We contrasted the situation in the US, where hi-tech companies have much better access to financing than in the UK - a real problem which explains why we often lag behind in this area. We have the ideas, but not the investment climate to see them through.

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.

CHARNEY FIELD

Tim Fitzgerald-O'Connor has continued to cut the grass on the Field and its general appearance continues to be a credit to his efforts which he undertakes as a free service to the village, for which the Parish Council is extremely grateful.

As Tim's large grass cutter cannot cut down to the low level required for playing football, the management of Charney Rangers FC has supplemented his cutting with a ride-on mower and the pitch looks good, enhancing the general appearance. The football pitch has been surveyed by an official of the Berks and Bucks FA and has been passed as suitable, in terms of dimensions, for the under-12s to play on it. This has come as a great relief to the Charney Army which laid it out when the goalposts were installed, getting it as near rectangular as possible!

So much for the good news, now the bad!

When the long grass behind the north goal was strimmed, significant quantities of dog faeces were found. This is unacceptable. If your dog fouls, it is essential that you pick it up and take it home for disposal. Throwing it into the long grass is not on! I don't know how many times

this problem has been aired in this newsletter but now that kids are to play regularly on the Field, it takes on an even greater dimension. Dog faeces can blind children so under no circumstances can dog fouling be allowed. If you feel you are unable to control your dog's motions then do not go anywhere near the football pitch! Ensure you have a dog poo bag with you whenever you visit the Field and to avoid embarrassment make sure it is visible so that you can be recognised as a responsible dog owner.

The other bad news is the graffiti attack on the children's play equipment. Last month someone used spray paint on two items of the equipment. Graffiti artists usually leave a "tag" and in this case the characters "ASMO!" were clearly visible together with "SN3". It is also suggested that a third piece of graffiti spells out "Andy". Do you recognise any of these? Have you seen any of these tags elsewhere? Have you seen youths loitering around the play area? The police are on the case but have so far drawn a blank. We are hoping it's just a one-off but we're keeping our eyes open for the offenders.

PLANNING

Not much happening on the planning front to report in this issue. Most significant is the clearance work at Minmere Farm where the planning permission for the conversion of the incomplete office building to a dwelling

required the developer to clear the site of redundant buildings first and he is doing just that. The old barns have been reduced to shells and will soon disappear altogether

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 (except August and December). For £4 you get a two-course meal, tea or coffee. Next date: 15th July.

Attendance has fallen off somewhat lately, threatening the viability of this semi-social event. Mary Daghish, Julie Rumble or Eunice Davies can give you more information and can recommend the quality and variety of the food.

CHARNEY RANGERS FC

You may have noticed in the adverts in the last edition that a football team for boys under-12 was being formed.

The team is now up and running and affiliated to the Berks and Bucks FA, playing in Division C of the Oxford Mail U-12s League for the 2009/10 season, with matches scheduled to take place on Sunday mornings on Charney Field.

Training sessions have already been held on Saturday mornings and have attracted favourable comments from residents who have watched these sessions and have remarked on the professional approach taken by the trainers. It is pleasing to see Charney Field put to good use and to see youngsters making the effort to get fit and enjoy England's favourite sport!

The team will comprise a squad of 16 and although there are not enough kids of the right age in Charney to fill the squad, many of the

team attend Hanney School, which, in the absence of our own, is effectively the village school.

An Open Day will be held on Sunday 16th August 2009, at Charney Field, with the friendly match between Charney Rangers and Appleton featuring as part of the event which will also feature a Penalty Shootout/Crossbar Challenge, Tombola, Raffle, Face Painting, Wet Sponges etc. plus a barbecue and Beer Tent, courtesy of The Chequers. Everyone is welcome and a proportion of the funds raised will go to the Village Hall Project. Come and see your local team in action!

Home Friendly Fixtures, K.O. 10.00 a.m.:-

Saturday 25th July - Didcot Casuals

Sunday 2nd August - Appleton

Sunday 16th August - Appleton

Sunday 23rd August - Kidlington.

For contact details see advert on back page.

PROJECT CHAFFINCH

Work by the Charney Army to ensure watercourses in the village are clear has continued with the clearance of Charney Wick Ditch alongside Bridle Path. Considerable quantities of weeds were removed as well as the brambles etc. which overhung the stream.

During the work, wildlife observed included several frogs, a large crayfish, (no doubt of the predatory American variety) and an abundance of minnows. Possibly a far cry from the trout alleged to be caught in the Ditch in bygone years but an encouragement that the stream is not polluted. Flow was improved by this work but it is noticeable that with drier weather, this has already reduced to a bare trickle.

Further work is needed in the stretch from Bridle Path to the weir to ensure there is no

obstruction to flood water, should it come along. The stretch from upstream of the weir along the bottom of Bridle Cottage garden will then be tackled to complete this phase of the work.

Evidence that the authorities can flex their muscles to persuade landowners to clear their drainage ditches has come in the form of a Notice to Charles Dingwall from the Vale Council requiring him to remedy the condition of the ditch which runs alongside Longworth Road, up to New Manor Farm within 35 days. Mr Dingwall has the option of appealing against this Order but it is hoped he will carry out the work to avoid a repetition of the flooding to Elm Cottage which occurred in July 2007.