

**PUBLISHED BY CHARNEY
BASSETT PARISH
COUNCIL**

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Meetings are normally held at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall on the second Wednesday of odd-numbered months.

The next meeting is on 13th July 2011

CHARNEY BASSETT VILLAGE HALL CHARGES

CHAFT has reviewed the running costs for the village hall and will be increasing hire charges from September 2011. The hire charges have remained unchanged for many years and with increases in the price of electricity and water, the hall fees have not been covering running costs, which means CHAFT has been increasingly reliant on other fundraising activities. It has therefore been decided to increase the hourly charges from £3.50 to £5.00 for village users and from £10.00 to £12.00 for outside organisations.

Please note that all bookings should be made and all fees paid through the bookings secretary Eunice Davies, tel. 868646. Loan of equipment is also arranged through Eunice who will require details of when the equipment will be collected and returned and a contact telephone number. If equipment is not returned by the borrower on time or in poor condition, they will not be allowed to borrow equipment in the future.

Hall equipment is only available for loan to villagers.

Geoff Rumble 15th June 2011

ADVERTS AND EVENTS

Dates For Your Diary

The Mobile Library visits Charney bus stop on alternate Thursdays from :-
09:50 to 10:05

The next dates are: -

30th. Jun.
14th. July, 28th. July,
11th. Aug, 25th. Aug.

Personalised Hand-made Cards

Can't find the right card for that special occasion?

Eunice will make one for you.
Ring her on 868646.

Buckland Village Diner

In the Village Hall, Buckland
The Village Diner provides home-made food from local sources at 12:15 p.m. every third Wednesday in the month. For £4 you get a two course lunch followed by tea or coffee.

The next Diner dates are:-
Wednesday July 20th

No diner in August

Deadline for copy for the September 2011 edition: **20th. August 2011**

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.

Charney Chatter

NUMBER 46

JULY 2011

**CHARNEY BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT**

This report covers the period from 1st April 2010 to 31st March 2011. It is a summary of the activities of your Parish Council over this period, the decisions made on your behalf and the way some of your money from the Council Tax was spent in maintaining the environment in which you live. The Council has met bi-monthly on the second Wednesday of the odd-numbered months at 7.30 p.m. in our modernised Village Hall. There were five councillors during the period of the report. Jos Bath resigned from the Council at the November meeting and David Nellist was co-opted to replace Jos at the January meeting. The average number of councillors at a meeting was 4.5 and average public attendance was six. The Council would like to thank our District and County Councillors for their attendance at a number of the meetings in this period. Details of how your Council has spent its precept of £3800 from your council tax can be found on the village website.

Your Council was invited by the District Council to comment on a number of planning applications during the year but no objections on any of these were raised by your Council.

Project Chaffinch (**CH**allenge: **A**void **F**urther **F**looding **I**N **C**harney) has continued work, through the efforts of the Charney Army, with clearing fallen trees and brambles in Charney Wick Ditch and has been able to use chest waders and weed rakes purchased with money from the flood defence grant to clear the mill stream at Ock Bridge Green. The Charney Army has also carried out maintenance of trees at the southern end of the playing field and along the bridle path.

Jos Bath resigned from co-ordinating The Village College in November and the Parish Council is most grateful to Lynn Brookes who has stepped in to look after this popular organisation. Your Council now owns the red telephone box at the end of the bridle path and has had a lock fitted to the door to allow items of interest to be displayed, without a major fear of theft or vandalism.

The collection made in 2009/10 to present Peter Davies with a bench in recognition of his considerable village community work resulted in a large sum of money left over after a bench was purchased and placed on the playing field. This money has been used to purchase a second bench that is installed on the patio of the village hall and a combined sign and notice board for the hall.

The new refuse collection system introduced by the District Council has been the subject of much discussion and annoyance in the village and your Council has made a number of representations to the District Council when problems have arisen.

Unfortunately, the response has been generally unsatisfactory with the District Council claiming the glory of higher recycling rates but leaving their contractors to handle all the customer complaints.

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Coffee Hour

Coffee hour continues on Tuesdays until **July 12th**
And starts again on **September 13th.**

**Charney
Feast**

Sat. July 9th.
1pm—4pm
On the Green

ANNUAL REPORT *Continued from p1*

The work carried out by Thames Water contractors on the water supply in and around the Village has been a similar story of annoyance and frustration with very unsatisfactory restoration of grass verges and considerable damage to what was a fairly level village green. Written and verbal complaints have resulted in apologies and promises of action but none has been forthcoming and this will be an ongoing battle to try and obtain help in repairing the damage they caused.

ORCC BULK OIL SCHEME

Following the article in the May edition of Charney Chatter about bulk buying of domestic heating oil through ORCC, I was contacted by Jan Ganesh who has offered to be the village co-ordinator. The scheme operates by individuals filling out a membership form and paying an annual fee of £20 to ORCC. When they want oil, they contact their co-ordinator with their requirements. Once a month, the co-ordinator feeds the data to ORCC Trading Ltd and they negotiate the best price and when to

expect a delivery. Once these details are confirmed, the oil supplier contacts each member who has ordered oil and confirms when the delivery will take place. Members pay the oil supplier direct for their oil. ORCC claim to have saved an average of £70 on 1000litres of oil compared to the highest quoted price since the scheme started last year.

**Your village co-ordinator is:-
Jan Ganesh tel: 868868**

FLOWER TUBS IN OUR VILLAGE

There are a number of containers for flowers in our village, by the road signs as you enter the village and on the village green. These are stocked and looked after by volunteers, and for a number of years Viv Maton has looked after the horse trough display on the corner of the village green. Viv has said she would like to hand this on to someone else and I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the village to

thank her for all her efforts in keeping it looking green and colourful. The trough has been stocked with plants for this summer but after that it will need a new volunteer to take over the maintenance and planting to keep it looking bright and verdant. If you have some time to spare and could look after the planting of the horse trough, please contact Stephen Cowlam, the Parish Clerk.

100 CLUB DRAW

May	No	Name	Prize	June	No	Name	Prize
1st. Prize	65	Ed Preece	£25		70	Joyce Ferguson	£50
2nd. Prize	86	Brenda Ewins	£10		25	Bill Clarke	£25

MOBILE SHOP

As you may well be aware Becci's Mobile Shop has been having what we shall politely call 'mechanical difficulties' lately and has been unable to visit. After much exploration of alternatives, I am very sorry to say that the shop will have to close with no prospect of re-opening in the foreseeable future. I enjoyed providing this service very much and would like to thank all who

helped support this venture, either by using us or helping to promote our advertising. Many of you may have met my daughter on the rounds and we both miss our days out in the van! We met some lovely people and am genuinely sad that we are not visiting any more. Wishing you all the best,
Becci Cox

SOMEONE SHOULD DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!

How often do we hear this said and frequently by someone who has no intention of doing anything themselves! Fortunately, in our village the Charney Army get quite a few things done because they know that if they don't do it, it probably won't happen or to make it happen would cost the community money. This year alone, the Army has removed trees that were threatening property on the bridle path and might cause the Charney Wick Ditch to block if in the future we should have a rain storm like the one in July 2007. The resultant pile of wood chip-pings is being used to keep weeds down on footpaths and in the Willow Arbour, which has also had its annual haircut. The millstream at Ock Bridge Green has been cleared of reeds, the kerb along the Lyford Road by the Church has been cleared of weeds and debris and most recently, the paddock opposite the Church has been attacked and all the nettles and brambles cut down to ground level. All this work is done manually and adds up to a lot of voluntary man-days.

Occasionally the Army is asked "why did you do that?" and the answer is either because they were asked to by the Parish Council or CHAFT, or because they had discussed what needed doing in the village and decided "it was time to do it". When community work is voluntary and free of charge, there is no automatic guarantee that action carried out is welcomed by everyone and the Army is keen to get feedback on their work and what villagers think "needs doing next". If there is an area in the village you think the Charney Army could do something to improve the visual appearance, or if you just want to comment on work carried out, please let us know. Also, please don't forget that new recruits are always welcome. If you have any time to spare and want to enjoy some honest outdoor toil in pleasant company or even if you simply want to lean on a spade and put the world to rights, contact the editor, John Daghish, and he will put you on the circulation list.

Geoff Rumble

VILLAGE COLLEGE**Patchwork & Quilting**

On Saturday 21st May in the Village Hall we held a wonderful Patchwork, Quilting and Needlecraft exhibition of Julie Ingram-Johnson's exquisite work. Over 50 people attended from near and far and such was the interest we have been able to organise a set of two beginners' classes on Wednesdays; one afternoon and one evening, which began on 15th June. We hope to run more classes in the autumn, so if you are interested in beginners' or intermediate classes and have not already told me, please contact me on 01235 868471 or village.college@yahoo.com.

French conversation/IT and Digital Photography

Would you like to join a French conversation group? We have a tutor who may be interested in providing classes in the autumn. Also our IT and Digital Photography teacher is available to run more sessions. If you are interested in joining any of these classes do please contact me for more information - contact details as above.

Lynn Brookes

CHAFT

MANY THANKS to Stephanie, David, Geoff, Hugh and members of Charney Army who joined Jane and Mike in painting the Children's play area equipment on the playing field.

CHARNEY FEAST 9th July 2011
Another reminder to anybody wishing to help, have a stall or give any donations and has not already made this known, please contact :-
Diane Ewart 868103, Jane Fry 868114, or Doug Hughes 868438.

THE PLAYING FIELD IN 2011

A little over ten years ago the village purchased the playing field with a grant of "landfill tax" money provided by the Trust for Oxfordshire Environment (sadly disbanded this year). The Village Hall Committee was transformed into CHAFT (Charney Hall & Field Trust) and took on the management of the field as well as the village hall. Now, ten years on, we can be proud of this asset in our village and more than a little grateful to those who have helped to make it what it is. The Charney & Lyford Education Trust (CLET) provided a grant to help purchase the equipment for the children's play area and this is clearly popular with young families. We must thank Mike Newman for regularly inspecting it and organising maintenance. The equipment will not last forever and hopefully everyone generously bought tickets in the Summer Draw, to help raise funds for CHAFT so that money is available when repairs or replacement are needed. The District Council, in 2001 when they could still afford a "parks department", planted hedging, shrubs and a small wood of oak, ash, hazel, maple and dogwood and these are now well established. In 2008, villagers donated £1000 worth of trees and shrubs to extend the planting after the Charney Army had cleared all the white poplar suckers that

had spread from the trees along the bridle path. With a few exceptions and despite droughts, these have taken well and will develop into established trees in the next few years. An unsung hero in the maintenance of the field is Tim Fitzgerald O'Connor. Tim does not live in the village but has cut the grass on the field for many years with his tractor and grass topper, at no charge to the village and our grateful thanks go to him for what would otherwise be a major cost/headache in regular maintenance. We have also added goal posts, a basketball net, a willow arbour and nest boxes in recent years and thanks are due to everyone who helped in the organisation and installation of these. The bonfire and fireworks evening was a popular annual event for nearly ten years and only came to an end when the football field was used regularly by the Charney Rangers under 12 team.

The field is now used by a range of people; footballers, young families, dog walkers and the occasional jogger. Let's hope that sufficient sponsors and hands-on supporters can be found in the years to come to ensure this village facility continues to give enjoyment to those who use it and that it can be maintained and developed for new activities.

Geoff Rumble

NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION GROUP

Our Neighbourhood Policing Team is continuing to address issues identified by the Group and the Police through consultation with local residents.

During the summer months special emphasis is being given to reducing anti-social behaviour. Initiatives include:

- increasing the police presence during term time outside schools at Buckland, Hanney and Southmoor to reduce illegal and inconsiderate parking,
- working with local schools on road safety educational initiatives to reduce the potential impact of motorists' anti-social behaviour,
- enforcing road traffic laws at potential speeding 'hot spots'
- increasing the police presence at places

where young people regularly congregate (youth organisations and public places within a balanced approach which seeks to integrate young people into the community)

Additional attention will also be paid to preventing rural crime at farm outbuildings and enforcing the law at 'illegal raves and music gatherings'

The public can continue to help keep our area a low crime area by providing relevant information to the Neighbourhood Policing Team on 0845 8 505 505or by telephoning 999 if it they suspect a crime is or is about to be committed.

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 7th September 2011. 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.

ORCC DIGITAL TV SWITCHOVER HELP SCHEME

This September, the analogue television signal will be switched off forever and replaced with a digital signal. TV equipment will need to be digital-compatible, otherwise it will display a totally blank screen. ORCC is working with Digital UK, an independent not for profit organisation formed by broadcasters, to assist Oxfordshire consumers in the conversion. There are two Switchover dates for Oxfordshire. 14 September (BBC2) and 28 September (all remaining analogue channels - ITV, BBC1, Channel 4, Channel 5).

ORCC has been appointed by Digital UK to mobilise local organisations and volunteers in Oxfordshire to help their service users and residents in their community to make the switch to digital TV successfully.

ORCC will be publicising the Switchover Help Scheme, run by the BBC, which has been set up to make it easier for older and disabled people to switch to digital TV. People are eligible for the scheme if they are aged 75 years or more, have lived in a care home for six months or more, get (or could get) certain disability benefits, or are registered blind or partially sighted.

The Help Scheme is run by the BBC and can provide:

- Easy to use digital TV equipment

- A security-checked installer

- A 12 month aftercare service.

This will cost only £40 or is free to people who are in receipt of benefits.

Everyone who is eligible for the Help Scheme has received a letter telling them all about it but not everyone may have read it or understood what is on offer and how to get help.

These are the people that ORCC will be urging local organisations and volunteers to reach.

Organisations will be encouraged to hold events and presentations, giving advice on how to switch over to digital TV. There is funding available through a Small Grants Scheme to encourage extra events locally.

Materials developed to help run events and explain switchover can also be provided.

Key figures - "supporters" - in the community will be asked to check that vulnerable people they know who are eligible for the Help Scheme have understood what is available and are accessing the Scheme if they need to.

For more information about the switchover and how to help, please contact Jayne Bullock, ORCC, Jericho Farm, Worton, Witney, Oxon OX29 4SZ. Tel: 01865 883488.

Email: orcc@oxonrcc.org.uk