

**PUBLISHED BY CHARNEY
BASSETT PARISH
COUNCIL**

Clerk to the Council: Stephen Cowlam
Phone: 868318
E-mail:
stephencowlam194@btinternet.com
Editor: John Daghish
Phone: 868557
E-mail: daghish@gotadsl.co.uk

Your councillors:-

Geoff Rumble (Chairman), Buckland Road 868738
Mike Cox, (Vice-chairman), New Road 868276
Jim Harper, Barnfield 868288

Jos Bath, Buckland Road 868260
Doug Hughes, Main Street 868438

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 10th. March (In the Church)

THE 100 CLUB

The latest Draws are as follows:-

Nov. 09

1st. Prize £25 No.131 Liz Cowlam
2nd. Prize £10 No.117 M. Welham

Dec. 09

1st. Prize £100 No. 63 Gildersleeves
2nd. Prize £50 No. 24 Collins

Jan. 10

1st. Prize £25 No. 30 Harris
2nd. Prize £10 No. 11 Daghish

Feb.10

1st. Prize £25 No.86 Brenda Ewins
2nd. Prize £10 No. 6 Julie Rumble

ADVERTS AND EVENTS

Village Hall Bookings

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

Table Tennis

Interested in playing table tennis in the Village Hall? Sessions will recommence as soon as the Village Hall re-opens: Contact Dave Sibbert on 868734 for more details.

Aunt Sally

Want to participate in this traditional Oxfordshire game played outside at local Public house venues during the summer? You have only a few days left to sign on: contact Roberta or Husnu at the Chequers.

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.

Hanney Gardening Club Talk

Hanney War Memorial Hall
1st Mar 2010 7:45 pm for 8:00pm.
Gordon Cottis Hellebores
Visitors welcome.

St Peter's Church

Dates for your diaries in 2010:-

March 27th. Spring Bring and Buy Sale

June 12th. Lunchtime Meal on the Green

September 4th. Church Fete

October. Harvest Supper (date to be announced)

Dates for the next Buckland Village Diner

are :- March 17th. & April 21st.

Charney Chatter

CHARNEY CHATTER MARCH

MARCH 2010

PETER DAVIES 1935-2010

Peter Davies moved to Charney Bassett 33 years ago but his many activities were far wider than the village, being Tower Captain of the Wantage Bellringers, an annual commentator at the White Horse Show and having a keen interest in all things mechanical and electrical, both old and new. When his involvement as a consultant to the Nuclear Industry began to wind down, he firstly became "Financial Officer" of the Parish Council and then in 1994, he was asked to be Parish Clerk. Not one to be daunted by the challenge, he set about finding out how local government works and quickly established that Parish Councillors come and go but the effectiveness of a council is determined by the ability of the Clerk to advise, persuade and steer. However, being an efficient Clerk, members of the community can assume you have a magic wand and combining efficiency with tact and the patience of Job can be a challenge. Peter saw the value of email, the internet and the media for communication and used the local and national press to publicise several issues such as heavy lorries damaging old stone bridges while mindlessly following Sat-Nav directions. His knowledge and understanding of local government was recognised in the regular attendance of our District and County Councillors at Parish Council meetings and a good working relationship with our MP Ed Vaizey.

Peter was Parish Clerk from 1994 to 2009, only standing down in December due to his failing health. In those fifteen years the village has seen many changes that have moved us forward. The creation of Charney Hall & Field Trust as a charity, *continued on page 2*

VILLAGE HALL PROJECT

As many will know, the terrible weather in January caused further delay to the building work and the main factor making it difficult to predict an exact completion date is the ability to dry out rendered and plastered walls, prior to painting. Now that the roof and doors are fitted, the hall is fully weatherproof and electric heaters are being used to help speed the drying out process. The internal fittings are starting to go into the toilets and kitchen and the latest predicted hand-over is around the end of March. The total spend since the start of the project has been £69,750.47 and the anticipated spend to finish is another £45-50,000. There will be a number of DIY jobs required, after the hall is handed over by the builders, so please keep April and May clear if you can offer help with a trowel, brush, hammer, screwdriver etc. Geoff Rumble

HEADLINES

- Peter Davies
- Village Hall— Re-opening delayed
- Canine capers—Still a Problem
- MP Takes Up Local Planning issues

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CONGRATULATIONS

To

Husnu and Roberta at the Chequers. Leila Ella arrived on Saturday 20th. April. Weight 8lbs 10oz

Village Website

Work is in progress to update the village website which should be up and running again in the near future

Deadline for copy for the May edition: 21st. April 2010

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

PETER DAVIES*From page 1*

the purchase of the playing field, the installation of children's play equipment on the field, the transfer of Charney Mill to the village, the development of the Village College and most recently, the Village Hall modernisation. All these and more were started or supported by Peter and his knowledge of "how to oil the wheels". If Peter had to pick one item from the many improvements that he was involved with I believe he would have chosen the accreditation of Quality Status for the Parish Council. To achieve this, he became a fully qualified Clerk, he introduced and edited the Charney Chatter newsletter and he set up and managed the village website, writing many of the articles and taking many photographs of village activities. When the Quality status was confirmed at the end of 2007 we were the smallest council in Oxfordshire to achieve this and still today are among a minority of local councils that have been accredited.

Peter also found time to set up the Charney Army, an ad hoc group of villagers who carry out simple construction and maintenance work round the village and help keep footpaths clear. Peter recognised that the ad hoc status meant that anyone could be classified as a member and used this to ensure anyone who had a spade, fork, mower, chainsaw, strimmer and a few hours to spare could and should be enlisted into the team. As commander-in-chief, he will always be remembered as Captain Bunsen for his ability to start a bonfire with a match and his gas flame weeder. When the 2007 floods highlighted the need to improve drainage in and around the village he formed Project Chaffinch (**CH**allenge **A**void **F**urther **F**looding **I**n **CH**arney). Peter knew the name was corny but it proved invaluable in publicising our cause when attention was focussed on more populated areas such as Abingdon and Oxford. His final achievement was to secure a £2000 grant from the District Council to allow Chaffinch to purchase equipment.

As Parish Clerk and in all his related activities, Peter led from the front but also set an example on what can be achieved by people working together. He died on February 8th aged 74 and will be greatly missed by everyone in our community. Our Church was too small for the 180 mourners` who came to his funeral on February 18th to say goodbye. His enthusiasm, patience and determination has shown us what can be achieved and the many changes that Peter helped to bring about will live on, inspired by his example.

Geoff Rumble

A BENCH FOR PETER

The proposal by the Parish Council for a bench to be presented to Peter Davies for his work as Parish Clerk was sadly overtaken by events. A bench and plaque are now in place on the playing field but the response of villagers to the proposal was overwhelming and considerable funds remain. A suitable use for the money will be discussed with Eunice Davies and a presentation will be arranged in the near future.

FROM YOUR MP - ED VAIZEY

I was very sorry to hear about the death of Peter Davies, the editor of Charney Chatter, among many other things. Peter and I spent a brilliant day together with RAF Benson, at his suggestion, so we could learn more about the work of the base, because of local concerns about helicopter flights over the village. My thoughts and prayers are with his family.

Planning issues are once again dominating my postbag, and therefore dominating my agenda. While they may not be relevant to all my constituents, they are big issues in all the main towns and villages. Wallingford is concerned at plans to build 750 houses in the town. Not only is the number deemed too large (something like a 30 per cent increase in the town's size) but there is also concern about the fact that the homes are to be built on one site. Similarly, In Wantage there is concern at plans for 1500 houses, on top of the 2500 planned for Grove. Again, a massive increase, and all in specific areas. Didcot is set to grow by about 5,000 houses. Faringdon has fewer concerns about housing - there the issue is a proposed new Tesco on the outskirts of the town, which could affect local businesses. And finally, the expansion of Swindon to the east remains a threat though this is receding. Add to this the on-going battle over an incinerator at Sutton Courtenay and the proposed reservoir at Steventon, and you can see there are a whole range of big planning issues affecting almost every community.

What do all these issues have in common? First, although there is consultation, local people do not feel that they are really being consulted. Rather, they are being presented with options, none of which they really like, and asked to choose the least worst. Second, there is the feeling that these developments are being carried out by developers and companies that

have no connection with the local area, who hold the upper hand, who will build their houses and then disappear. Third, there is a feeling that these developments are taking place piecemeal. There is no real overarching discussion taking place about how the Vale and South Oxfordshire should grow. No one disputes that we need more houses, particularly for young people. But what about a discussion about where it should go? For example, if every village in the area took another five or ten houses, much of the housing need would be met, and those villages would benefit from having new people.

One of the arguments in favour of large-scale development is the so called 106 agreements, whereby developers pay for infrastructure improvements. Without large-scale development, it is argued, we wouldn't get the infrastructure we need. This is easily solved by levying a tax on every new home built, and ring-fencing the proceeds for affordable housing and infrastructure improvements. In March (probably by the time you have read this) I am holding a meeting with the distinguished architect Sir Terry Farrell, in Wallingford, to look at these kind of issues. Sir Terry is a master-planner, and has worked on a lot of projects in Kent, including the Thames Gateway. Sir Terry argues we no longer do planning in this country, only development control. We need to seize back power from developers and put it back into the power of the community.

In Parliament, I called a debate on the pernicious effects of the Criminal Records Bureau, and how it is affecting my constituents. The CRB takes so long to carry out checks that often people lose the jobs which they have been offered. Also, too many people are subject to multiple CRB checks which is time consuming and expensive. As usual, the debate and all my other parliamentary

THANK YOU

A big Thank You to all of you who phoned or sent cards, letters, messages and e-mails during Peter's illness and after his death. They were and still are a great comfort to me and my family at this sad time.

Thanks to all who were able to attend the funeral service - what a lot of people!
A fitting tribute to a good man - I think.
Thank you all.
Eunice and family

CHARNEY VILLAGE COLLEGE

Charney Village College

Yes, we're still here! Although Charney Hall is currently closed, we are still running classes in Denchworth Village Hall. Pilates and Yoga sessions continue to be popular, classes are at full capacity at the moment but there is a waiting list, call me if you are interested.

Meanwhile, we are in desperate need of local tutors to help us get up to speed when our own hall reopens, if you have a skill that you can pass on to others, please contact me, we can discuss your fee and advertise for pupils, we would like tutors in Computing, Art based sub-

jects, Cookery and Languages, don't be shy! **please** come forward, our classes usually run for 8-10 weeks, 1 hour a week, term time only, alternatively, if you are unable to commit long term, we can run a 1 or 2 day course.

All classes are open to over 18's.

Please email me if you are interested in teaching a subject Villagecollege@aol.com or telephone me on 01235 868260

Jos Bath

We are grateful that CLET continues to support The Charney Bassett Village College

CANINE CULTURE !

The Charney Rangers played their first home game on 25th January. The day before, I picked up TEN piles of dog mess on the playing field. I could have picked up more but ran out of plastic bags. I hope everyone agrees that this behaviour by some dog owners is completely unacceptable. As a dog owner, I do not want to see a ban on dogs playing on the field. It is a wonderful place for them to run and exercise and for owners to meet and chat. PLEASE watch your dog at all times while on the field, bag up any mess they make, even round the edge of the field and take it home to your dustbin or dog mess composter. It has been suggested that we should have a bin on the field for dog mess. Apart from the cost of

installing one, the smell and the health risk, who would empty it? I would not enjoy emptying a bin full of dog mess and the one rubbish bin we have in the village by the bus shelter seems invisible to the dustman most of the time.

We are all very fortunate to live in a small village but it does require everyone to respect our community and not assume someone else will sort out the problem they have caused. To misquote John F Kennedy, "ask not what your community can do for you, ask what you can do for your community." In this case, clear up after your dog!

Julie Rumble

CHARNEY BASSETT AND LYFORD EDUCATIONAL TRUST – A BRIEF HISTORY

Soon after the 1870 Education Act, the Bouverie Pusey family of Pusey Estate built Charney school for the village. They owned the land around Charney and had built the New Road and its houses for their estate and farm workers. The school continued to educate the children from Charney and Lyford from five to fourteen years until just after the Second World War when it was closed through lack of numbers.

It was re-opened later due to the efforts made by Vic Hodgkins, the Parish Council Chairman. This time it was for five to eleven year old children who would go on to Faringdon and later Wantage Schools. When Denchworth School closed, the children from Denchworth also came to Charney. In July 1981 the number of children attending the Charney (Bouverie Pusey) School dropped to thirteen and the school was closed for the last time. The Charity Commission were persuaded to appoint five trustees, E J Clarke, Colonel J J Dingwall, D Douglas, V A Hodgkins and the Revd Canon H J Stuart. By an Order dated 14 October 1986, the Charity Commissioners authorized the Trustees to sell the School for not less than £65,000. The premises were sold at that price on 27th November 1986 to R & D McBain Ltd, a business owning the site next to the School. The sale proceeds were invested in an interest bearing account and in 1991 were worth £100,622.54. Neither the capital nor the accrued interest could be spent without the consent of the Charity Commission or a Court Order.

At first, the Church (the Diocese not the local

Church) claimed the money because it had been a Church Maintained School. The Charity Commission decided, however, that the money was a local educational charity. There then followed a lengthy dialogue between the Trustees (ably assisted by Marian Gardiner as Secretary) and the Charity Commission as to what form the Charity would take. The Charity Commission were for giving the whole amount to Hanney School. This was the school that the current Charney and Lyford children went to, as they do now.

Eventually, in 1999, the Charity Commission decided that we could give grants to persons from Charney and Lyford providing that they were 25 years or under for individuals and for groups of any age (e.g. the Village College) and the grant was for educational purposes. In addition, we could give grants for purposes that would be of help to either village if we felt that there was some sufficient educational content. (We gave £15,750 for Charney Field play equipment).

At present we have given grants in excess of £36,000 to 21 individuals and organisations (some of them more than once).

David Douglas

Applications to be considered at the next meeting must be with the Clerk by **1st. May**. Forms and further details from Mrs. Frances Rothwell, Old Walls, Buckland Rd, Charney Bassett. Tel:-868704 e-mail:-fc.rothwell@tiscali.co.uk