

**PUBLISHED BY CHARNEY  
BASSETT PARISH  
COUNCIL**

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**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 Wednesday 12th. May**

**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.

**Hanney Gardening Club Talk**

Hanney Gardening Club Plant Sale  
15th May 2010 10:00am to 12:00 at Hanney War Memorial Hall  
Very popular event the best plants go quickly!

**St Peter's Church**

**Dates for your diaries in 2010:-**

**June 12th.** Lunchtime Meal on the Green  
**September 4th.** Church Fete  
**October.** Harvest Supper (date to be announced)

**Dates for the next Buckland Village Diners**

are :- May 19th  
June 16th  
July 21st

NB. There is **no** diner in August

**Community Bus Service  
ARE YOU ABLE TO HELP ?**

**Drive our Mini Bus  
Once or Twice a Month  
It would be so much appreciated**  
A familiarisation course is available.

For further details please contact

John Smith (Chairman)

Tel: 01367 710494

Deadline for copy for the July edition: 20th. June 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

# Charney Chatter

**NUMBER 39**

**MAY 2010**

**VILLAGE HALL PROJECT**

It is a little difficult to write a definitive report on the village hall project at the moment because I am expecting the hall to be finished and handed back before this edition of Charney Chatter arrives in your letterbox but I don't want to tempt fate!

As I write this, the plan is for building and decorating work to be finished and the vinyl flooring to be laid by the end of the fourth week in April. All the chairs, tables etc will need to be moved back before May Day and in time for Coffee Hour on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May and Voting for the General Election on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May.

After this, regular users who have been relegated to Denchworth Hall or elsewhere will hopefully decide to return and make use of the clean, new, enlarged facility.

There will be many items that were not in our contract with the builders and will need volunteers to help complete the project. These include tiling the kitchen and around hand basins in the toilets, putting up fittings such as toilet roll holders, putting back pinboarding around some of the walls, fitting lampshades and many other items. Decisions will also be needed on what tiles, toilet roll holders, lampshades, etc .... So the completion of the project will take a while yet and will depend on support from villagers and a review of available finances after all the bills have been paid. However, the hall will be available and ready to use very shortly and I hope everyone will think it was worth the effort and cost.

Don't forget the CHAFT AGM, which follows the Annual Parish Meeting on **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> May** when you can come along and volunteer to help!

Geoff Rumble

**GOLF**

I believe it was Oscar Wilde who first said that golf is a good walk spoiled. Be that as it may, Charney has an abundance of good and keen golfers, and I am proposing we start up a Charney Golf Society. I would be willing to collate and arrange an initial meeting of those who would be interested. There is an abundance of good courses both in and around Oxfordshire, and it would be a great way to get to know one another. I am John Stiles, my 'phone number is 01235868191 and my email address is [JS@the-threshold.org](mailto:JS@the-threshold.org), and I very much look forward to hearing from you.

**HEADLINES**

- *Village Hall Latest*
- *Grants Available for Home Insulation*
- *Successful first year for Charney Rangers*

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**Coffee Hour**

Will resume in the recently extended Village Hall on Tuesday 4th. May.

50p. buys you as much tea or coffee as you can drink — with biscuits too. Everyone welcome

Sessions will continue on Tuesdays until and including Tuesday June 29th.

Visit [www.charneybassettpc.org.uk](http://www.charneybassettpc.org.uk) for the very latest village news

**PARISH COUNCIL**

This report covers the period from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010. 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 meets bi-monthly on the second Wednesday of the odd-numbered months at 7.30 p.m. Meetings are normally held in the Village Hall but the meetings in September, November, January and March were held in the Church while the Village Hall modernisation project was carried out. There were five councillors during the period of the report. John Stiles resigned from the Council at the May meeting in 2009 and Doug Hughes was co-opted to replace John at the July meeting. All councillors either attended all six meetings of the Council or made acceptable apologies for absence. Average attendance of councillors was four and average public attendance was five.

Council expenditure comes from a precept on the Vale of White Horse District Council (VWHDC), which derives its income from Council Tax. In the period under review the precept was £3,200, which represents a tax of less than £25 per year on a Band D property. Grants and loans added nearly £96,000 to the Council's income. The main item of expenditure has been the Village Hall Project and in the period covered by this report the expenditure on this item was nearly £84,000. Other specific items of expenditure were grass cutting (£1168.46), insurance (£426.47) and donations to charities and organisations that have a direct link to the village (£239). Council administration accounted for £1,284 and included tree surgery (£300), Charney Chatter printing (£112.50) and Clerk's expenses and honorarium (£600).

Your Council are not a planning authority but are invited to comment on planning applications by VWHDC. No objections were raised by your Council on any planning applications made in the period under review but your Council noted that an application that was supported by them was turned down by VWHDC, was granted on appeal but was subsequently challenged unsuccessfully in the High Court by VWHDC at a cost of £16,824.50.

Project Chaffinch (CHallenge: Avoid Further Flooding IN Charney) has continued work, through the efforts of the Charney Army, with clearing fallen trees and brambles in Charney Wick Ditch and an application to VWHDC for grant aid proved successful in December. This money (£2,346) will be available for specified work in 2010/11.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Charney Army provided help when your Council employed tree surgeons to remove a number of trees and branches along the bridle path, which were threatening adjacent properties. There are a number of large white poplar trees at the village end of the bridle path and some further work is being considered.

The Village College has been formally recognised as coming under the umbrella of the Parish Council (as is the case with the Charney Army) and therefore covered by the public liability insurance policy of the Council. The Village College has continued classes at Denchworth Village Hall while our own hall has undergone modernisation. It is now hoped that our hall will provide much improved facilities and allow the College to develop in the future.

It was with great sadness that the Council accepted the resignation of Peter Davies as Clerk in December 2009. Peter was Clerk for fifteen years and introduced many improvements in the operation of the Council, which led to the designation of "Quality Council" in 2008. We are pleased to welcome Dr Stephen Cowlam, who agreed to take on the role of Clerk and was able to carry out a short handover period before Peter became too ill to carry on. We also welcome John Wright who has taken over the running of the Council sponsored website and John Daghish who has taken on the editing of Charney Chatter and arranging the Charney Army sessions, which are normally held on the second and last Thursday of each month. Charney Chatter is distributed to every house in the village every two months and is also available on the website.

Your Council were asked if they wished to nominate recipients for an "Unsung Heroes of the Vale" award, which was organised and sponsored by VWHDC. We are pleased to note that John and Mary Daghish were presented with award certificates at a luncheon on 6<sup>th</sup> March and Eunice Davies has received a posthumous award certificate for Peter.

A collection was organised by your Council to present Peter with a bench in recognition of his considerable village community work and this has been installed on the playing field. Donations to the collection were most generous and a large sum of money still remains, which will be used to purchase other village facilities in accordance with Peter's wishes.

Geoff Rumble

**CHARNEY RANGERS FC**

Charney Rangers have taken second place in the Oxford Mail Boys League U-12's Division D, and have gained promotion to Division C in their first season since officially forming in mid-2009, just prior to the 2009/2010 season. This is quite an achievement for a team that started the season with a squad of just 12 players, only to lose two members for family reasons mid-way through the competition. This saw the boys dig deep within their reserves of strength and courage during that part of the season that is associated with cold wind, rain and mud, which resulted in an unbeaten run when fielding only 10 players. That said, two new players joined the Rangers after the Christmas break and their impact helped the team take six victories from the last seven matches which has led them to runners-up and deserved promotion.

The Oxford Mail Boys League season has now ended, however Charney Rangers are playing a series of Friendly matches during May and are entering

Tournaments during May, June and July, after which they will take a Summer break until resumption of training for the new 2010/2011 season on 4th August 2010.

Please note Friendly and Tournament Fixtures listed below -  
**Sun. 2nd May 2010** - Crowmarsh B (AWAY)

**Sun. 9th May 2010** - Oxford City Colts (HOME)

**Sun. 16th May 2010** Steventon (AWAY)

**Sun. 23rd May 2010** - - AFC Henley (AWAY)

**Sun. 30th May 2010** - Tournament at Cholsey Bluebirds FC

**Sun. 20th June 2010** - Tournament at Didcot Town FC

**Sun. 4th July 2010** - Tournament at Grove 6's

**July 5th 2010** - End of CRFC first season.

Please note, any boys interested in joining CRFC please contact Bernie Townsend, (Chairman), on 01235

**QUIZ NIGHT SUNDAY 25TH APRIL**

7 teams came together in the Chequers Pub to contend the annual crown of CHAFT Quiz Champions. A ding-dong battle raged as teams tried to predict their strengths to play a score-doubling Joker; Team 'It's Only A Game And That's Why We Are Here' pulling off a record 40 points coup here on Food and Drink, or exercising a Vulture to discard a round believed to be particularly weak - 'Les Quizerables' scoring a bit of an own-goal at this point by ditching what turned out to be the best score achieved by any team in the Name That Dog round!

We were sustained throughout the evening by a combination of Husnu's hot brain snacks and teams' ingeniously awful joke answers when stuck in a hole. In the end 'Les Quizerables' romped home with 177 points, ahead of the 'Chocaholics'

Unanonymous' who narrowly snatched second place (158.5 points) from 'It's Only A Game And That's Why We Are Here' (on 154) and 'The Wiseacres' (on 144). 'The Barnfield Stormers' did not quite sustain their storming start, and 'The Odds & Sods' and 'The Lobster Pots' brought up the rear, the latter claiming the wooden spoons.

A total of £146 was raised for CHAFT funds. Many thanks to everyone for supporting this event.

Also thanks to Lucy and Paul for organising an enjoyable evening. (Ed.)

Did someone mention 'Call My Bluff' for a future event?

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## THE 100 CLUB

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The latest Draws are as follows:-

<u>Mar. 10</u>	<u>1st.Prize £25</u> Colin McGuire	<u>2nd.Prize £10</u> Debbie Little
<u>Apr.10</u>	Kay Adamson	Brenda Ewins

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## AUSTRALIAN WEATHER FORECAST!

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It was April and the Aborigines in a remote part of Northern Australia asked their new elder if the coming winter was going to be cold or mild. Since he was an elder in a modern community he had never been taught the old secrets. When he looked at the sky he couldn't tell what the winter was going to be like. Nevertheless, to be on the safe side, he told his tribe that the winter was indeed going to be cold and that the members of the tribe should collect firewood to be prepared. But being a practical leader, after several days he had an idea. He walked out to the telephone booth on the highway, called the Bureau of Meteorology and asked, 'Is the coming winter in this area going to be cold?' The meteorologist responded, 'It looks like this winter is going to be quite cold.' So the elder went back to his people and told them to collect even more wood

in order to be prepared. A week later he called the Bureau of Meteorology again. 'Does it still look like it is going to be a very cold winter?' The meteorologist again replied, 'Yes, it's going to be a very cold winter.' The elder again went back to his community and ordered them to collect every scrap of firewood they could find. Two weeks later the elder called the Bureau again. 'Are you absolutely sure that the winter is going to be very cold?' he asked. 'Absolutely,' the man replied. 'It's looking more and more like it is going to be one of the coldest winters ever.' 'How can you be so sure?' the elder asked. The weatherman replied, 'Our satellites have reported that the Aborigines in the north are collecting firewood like crazy, and that's always a sure sign.

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## AN UNWANTED GIFT

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Several villagers have remarked to me recently that they have been the recipients of acts of generosity by a visiting dog or dogs. The number of generous dogs must be quite small, as most dog owners prevent their dogs from making unescorted visits to their neighbours. What a surprise to find one of these gifts as you encounter it unexpectedly in the garden. Some

people have received more than one gift; they hardly know what to do. To save the blushes and embarrassment of both donors and recipients, this ought to stop. If the problem persists, villagers can complain to the Vale of White Horse District Council on 01235 520202, who will take action.

Stephen Cowlam,

Visit [www.charneybassettpc.org.uk](http://www.charneybassettpc.org.uk) for the very latest village news

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## FARINGDON EAST NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION GROUP

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Charney Bassett is one of 23 villages which form the Faringdon East Neighbourhood Action Group covering an area which extends from Shellingford to Hanney and from Littleworth to Tubney, including the villages of Stanford in the Vale, Kingston Bagpuize, Southmoor and Longworth.

The group has been set up as part of the Neighbourhood Policing initiative and consists of local residents and representatives from the police and district and parish councils. I represent Charney and

have recently taken over as Chairman. The late Peter Davies was the Parish Council representative.

More information can be found on the Thames Valley Police website.

In the next issue I will bring you up to date with activities during the past year and explain what we will be doing to ensure you can 'Have your Say' to help the Group prioritise and tackle the issues that matter most to our local communities.

David Sibbert.

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## HOME INSULATION

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Loft and cavity wall insulation is a cost-effective way of reducing heating bills. The cost of loft and cavity wall insulation is subsidised by the energy utility companies and in addition to this the Vale of White Horse District Council offers a grant of up to £100 to further reduce the cost. Those who are over the age of 70 or who are in receipt of certain benefits may be entitled to free loft insulation (restrictions apply). I am looking for opportunities to raise awareness of this offer amongst Vale of White Horse residents. I have attached a copy of an article which could be used in a Parish Council newsletter. Please could I ask you to consider placing one of these articles in the next edition of your Parish Council newsletter? I have also attached a copy of a leaflet which could be displayed in local shops, GP surgeries, libraries etc. Please let me know if you would like me to send copies of these leaflets to you. The Council works in con-

junction with an insulation discount scheme Cocoon. Cocoon compare a number of insulation installers to find the best price for customers. Cocoon provide customers with a free and no obligation survey and the prices quoted by Cocoon include both the discount from the energy utility companies and the grant from the Council. For more information about Cocoon please visit

<http://www.cocoonyourhome.co.uk/>.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss this in more detail.

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Visit [www.charneybassettpc.org.uk](http://www.charneybassettpc.org.uk) for the very latest village news