



WELCOME

This is the first issue of the re-styled Charney Chatter which will now be issued on a monthly basis and increasingly linked to improvements to the Charney Website www.charneybassett.org.uk A big thanks to Roger Watson, the retiring editor, for all his hard work over the past two years and for his invaluable help with the development of the new Charney Chatter.

FLOOD AVOIDANCE

Following an analysis of flooding in the Charney Wick area of the village, resulting from high water levels in the River Ock in 2007, the Parish Council agreed an action plan in liaison with the Environment Agency and local landowners (this plan is frequently referred to as PROJECT CHAFFINCH (Challenge to Avoid Further Flooding in Charney). More information on the project can be found in the Parish Council Meeting minutes ([May 2012, Minute 40](#)) and subsequent updates.

The [Charney Army](#) with the help of David Godfrey has now completed the first stage of the plan by clearing vegetation along the causeway in four working sessions amounting to some 70-80 hours of work.



Charney Army at work

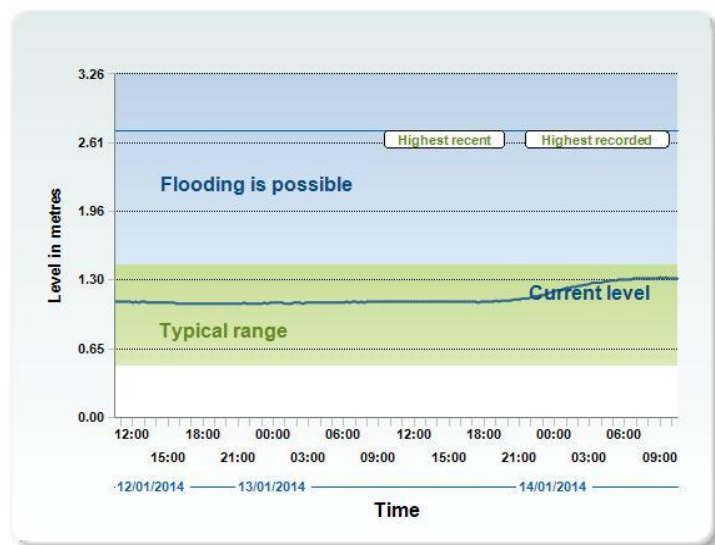


Water on each side of the causeway

PARISH COUNCIL The [draft minutes of the last meeting](#) on 8th January can be viewed on line. Matters relating to Parish Council business should be referred to the Clerk to the Parish Council Stephen Cowlam 868318 or e-mail stephencowlam194@btinternet.com.

FLOOD WATCH – CHARNEY BASSETT

Up-to-date information on the level of the River Ock can be viewed on the [Environment Agency Website](#).



The illustration shows water level as recorded every three hours during two days in mid-January.

GRIT AND SALT BIN

The Parish Council has obtained a salt/grit bin. It is located by the bus shelter. Residents are invited to make use of the contents as they see fit during snowy and icy weather to treat the roads and footpaths. Please use it responsibly, it costs us £100 to refill the bin.

Stephen Cowlam
Clerk to the Parish Council

COMMUNITY OIL BUYING SCHEME

Many residents are already members of the bulk buying scheme organised by the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council.

Want to join? For information go to www.oxonrcc.org.uk/home/bulk-oil-buying-scheme

Residents who do not have internet access and are interested in buying oil through the scheme should contact village coordinator Jan Ganesh Tel. 868868.

Order deadlines

27th Jan for delivery week commencing 10th February

24th Feb for delivery week commencing 10th March

FROM YOUR MP – Ed Vaizey

Themes of the report are:

- Tax rules for sports clubs to be made simpler
- The planned electrification of the main railway line and the closure of the A338 at Grove
- Changes to farm subsidies

Full report can be found on the [Charney Bassett Website](#)

The recent wet weather has prompted Ruth Gerring to send in her poem on rain!

WINTER 2013/14

What a year floods and rain,
Rain and floods then more the same,
Every morning wake to the refrain,
You've got it; lashing rain!

Carpets, telly, fridge, no joke,
Trying hard to keep afloat,
Cats, dogs and frail old folk,
Rescued by men in a boat!

Tree and grass, shrub and flower,
Gently drowned, by a shower!
No heat, no light due to no power,
Can't make cakes, damp marge and flour!

Auntie May in her Attic,
Always been a water fanatic,
Swam and dived like seal erratic,
Decided to be non-aquatic!

Couldn't cope with floods and rain,
Rain and floods, then more the same,
Left these shores on first fast train,
Note said, 'left have gone to Spain'!

CHAFT 100 CLUB WINNERS

January 2014:

First Prize £25; No 143 – Jan Ganesh
Second Prize £10; No 107 – Lisa Knowles



NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE "TAKING CONTROL"

The next phase of the [Neighbourhood Plan](#) is about to start. You will have the opportunity to express your views on what the Plan needs to address. A simple questionnaire will be delivered to your door on 1st/2nd February and we ask you, either as a household or individually or both, to put your ideas in the four boxes - What you like about Charney Bassett - What you don't like about Charney Bassett - Things to improve Charney Bassett - Your good ideas. Please return the questionnaire in the stamped addressed envelope or direct to the printed address by the 14 February. We are posting a [FAQ "frequently asked questions"](#) section on the village website and we look forward to receiving your ideas.

CBNP Steering Group
Ron Smith

WHY NOT JOIN US? Ladies walking Group. Monthly outings, stopping for lunch at a pub or café. Details contact Jane Fry iane.e.frv@btinternet.com



December walk around Lockinge and Ardington

VILLAGE DEFIBRILLATOR GIVEN THE GO AHEAD

The Charney Bassett Parish Council has given approval for the procurement of the Village's own defibrillator. Now we have a target of £2000 to meet, in order to purchase and maintain the equipment. Local grants and donations have begun the fund raising activity and the first steps have been taken in liaising with The Community Heartbeat Trust through the South Central Ambulance Service, NHS Foundation Trust.

Next month a small group of volunteers will consider issues relating to: - Siting /Installation & Maintenance/ Fundraising/Awareness Training.

Want to help in any way? So far we have 7 people who have volunteered. If you'd like to be included, please contact me on my email address - dabe26@hotmail.co.uk

Additional information will be circulated next month in a Charney Chatter special edition.

CHARNEY BASSETT AND LYFORD EDUCATIONAL TRUST

CLET supports a range of educational projects, with grants awarded both to individuals under the age of 25 and to community groups in the villages of 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: 01235 868704, E-mail: rothwell555@btinternet.com

The next meeting of the CLET Trustees will be on Wednesday 7th May 2014. Please contact the Clerk for a Grant Application Form, which should be returned to her for consideration at this meeting

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

COFFEE HOUR – Every Tuesday in the Village Hall from 10.30-11.30 am. The cost is £1.00 per person and includes as much tea, coffee and biscuits as you like.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 20th February 2014. Entries to:
chatterinbox@btopenworld.com

Charney Chatter e-news is published monthly on behalf of the Parish Council and co-edited by Rosemary McClintock 868817 and David Sibbert 868734. Occasional interim messages may be sent to subscribers at the discretion of the editors. Contributions should be e-mailed to chatterinbox@btopenworld.com in WORD format by the 20th of each month. You can unsubscribe to this e-chatter by e-mailing echatter@btopenworld.com. Residents without e-mail facilities can ask for the monthly edition to be delivered.