



It's still a wonderful world



The Lockdown: assistance within Charney

All will be aware of the new challenges the coronavirus is bringing, for example, if you or your normal sources of help need to self-isolate. Your Parish Councillors are keen to ensure that all residents can safely access support services, be given reassurance and receive help with deliveries. Your Councillors are available should you need assistance. In particular, the following are acting as liaison with volunteers in the Village with respect to collection of prescriptions, shopping or even delivering a take-away meal from the Chequers if you are housebound:

Mary Castle – 868371

Kay Adamson – 868599

Please do not hesitate to contact either Mary or Kay if you need assistance with the above or if you wish to be added to their list of volunteers.



From
The Chequers!
 01235 868642

Charney Chippy Menu

Available Every Day
 6pm to 8pm
 Just ring and order

Specials*

Ring 9am to 1.30pm
 and after 5.30pm
 to hear what's on and order

Theme Nights

Mondays (Steak, Curries...)
 Mid-week Roast Wednesdays
 Fish Fridays
 Date Nights!

Famous Sunday Roasts

*Specials Examples

Chicken Kiev, spicy potato
 wedges and peas £12

Natural Smoked Haddock with
 new potatoes and peas £13

10oz Gammon Steak with all the
 trimmings £12.50

Two 4oz burgers in a soda roll
 £10
 (add bacon, black pudding,
 cheese, BBQ, egg)

*Specials Examples (extra bits!)

English Cheeses
 Somerset Brie
 Minstrel Mature Cheddar
 Tuxford and Tebbutt Blue Stilton
 (with grapes, celery, butter, onion
 chutney and biscuits)



Bears, beasts and relatives



It looks like
nobody told
them that...



...bears and
their friends
are not
required to
stay indoors
and socially
distance.

And so many other things going on...

[The pop-up art gallery](#)

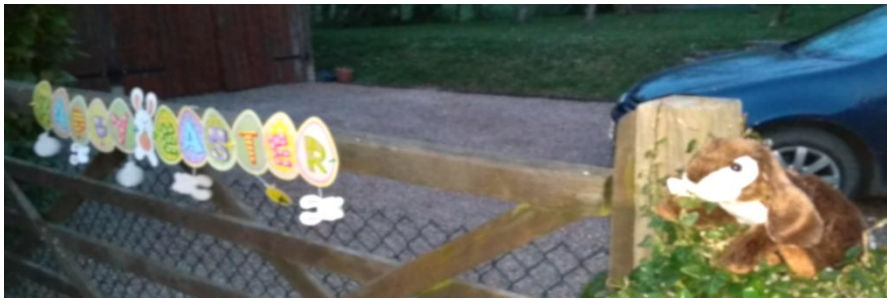


The [Easter cross](#)

and St Peter's [Easter garden](#)



Easter greetings!



So we asked ...

...have you been doing anything new over the last weeks, other than home schooling, learning to use Skype, Zoom or similar? Or have you learned or made something or done something you have particularly enjoyed? [We asked for your stories.](#)

Here is what some of your neighbours have been doing.

- Taking the opportunity now the roads are quieter to dust off my bike and do some cycling – nothing too strenuous though. Definitely no Lycra involved.
- Lots of reading.
- Catching up with neglected friends on the phone.
- Writing limericks:
Muffy the cat took a walk
In the garden where birds
she could stalk
No, not robins or tits
But peacock with frits
Is her favourite dish with a squawk
- Bread making (with fresh yeast from Millets)
- Wine tasting via Zoom
- Birthday drinks over the fence

Main Street's Easter garden



The amazing [sock quiz](#) on the Charney website: a close competition with joint winners, Sally Hawkins and Christine Trotman. The winners received a take-away meal for two, generously donated by Ian and Jacqui at the Chequers, as indeed were the socks – by Ian, of course, Jacqui has better taste.

And why not look into [life under the rainbow](#) in the bus shelter for some activity ideas.



All the above and more can be found on the [Charney homepage](#) under latest news.

Supporting our NHS

Picking up on a nationwide initiative on Facebook, Amanda Graham started making laundry bags for NHS workers, into which they can safely put their used scrubs or uniforms to bring home and wash with minimum handling. Mobilising others to help and then, through Christine Trotman bringing on board many of the Charney sewing fraternity, so far **101 bags** have been sent to the John Radcliffe Hospital, The Great Western Hospital, Didcot Paramedics and The Churchill. Each had the sticker shown on the right, to say thank you to the NHS from our Village

Well done to all Charney's busy sewing bees.



 **For everything** 
 **you are doing** 
 **from the Village of** 
Charney Bassett



Also good to hear so many in Charney out on Thursday evenings at 8 pm clapping in support of the NHS, care workers and all the many hard-working individuals helping to keep things running.

Accessibility

Work has been carried out on the Charney website to bring it more in line with the accessibility regulations imposed on public sector bodies. A draft accessibility report has been prepared and once finalised will be made available on the website. The most obvious change is the accessibility tools tab, which when clicked offers readability options (which differ depending on an individual's device and software).



Nature's store cupboard

Those who take their daily stroll down the bridle path may have noticed a tall plant along its margins. This plant is known amongst other names as Jack by the Hedge, or Garlic Mustard and is edible (though some may say an acquired taste). It is a biennial, so we're lucky to have it this year in abundance to help supplement the supermarket delivery (if you can get one).

A couple of other tasty treats along the bridle path are nettles (great in salad or made into tea) and, of course, the old faithful, dandelions.

Remember to pick leaves from the top unless you want some of nature's condiment, too, i.e dog pee.

Enjoy



Charney Hall & Field Trust

Latest News

The meeting planned for the end of March was cancelled and a wide ranging agenda and supporting papers dealt with by email, with all committee members participating in the process. Here is a summary of some of the issues dealt with.

Village Hall

Fire Safety and Health & Safety Assessments

Annual assessments of the Hall have been undertaken in accordance with legal and insurance requirements. The results demonstrate a very high level of compliance. Some relatively low risk improvements are under consideration.

Safety Policy

As a follow-up to the assessments the obligatory 'Fire Safety and Health & Safety Policy' document has been updated and a copy displayed on the notice board.

Playing Field

Annual Safety Inspection & Risk Assessment

An independent report from the Play Inspection Company has identified a number of low risk issues which will be addressed during the summer.

Safety Policy

The policy has been reviewed and updated and will be revisited once the proposed Memorandum of Understanding with the Parish Council has been agreed.



Woodland Project

In late 2019 the Parish Council and CHAFT engaged Sylva Consultancy to review the safety of the Woodland Area and in particular the Aspen trees. The [report is available on the website](#). The urgent work identified at Appendix 2 to the report (Tree Survey Data) has now been carried out. The Management Committee (in liaison with the Parish Council) has agreed to implement option 3 of the report (Clear Fell) and a project plan is currently being prepared.

Finance ££££££££

The 2019/20 accounts have been approved by the Trustees and submitted to the auditor.

Coronavirus

Management Flexibility Whilst Retaining Good Governance.

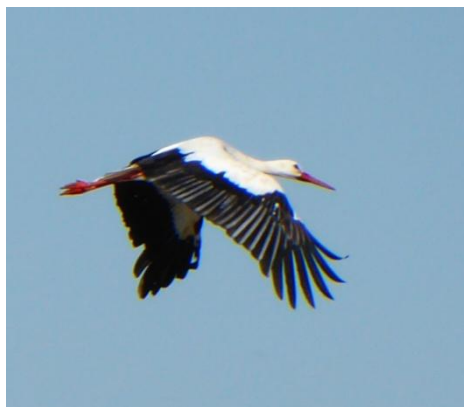
The Trustees are to give further consideration to managing CHAFT business during the coming months taking on board advice from the Charities Commission, Community First, Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association and the Government. Discussions are likely to cover issues such as:

- arrangements for the AGM;
- meetings to be held by email until further notice (technology assisted if and as necessary);
- succession planning;
- implications of reopening the Village Hall and the children's play area;
- organisation of the Fete (with St Peter's Church).

Queuing Up

A wide range of issues are queuing up ready to be addressed once life returns closer to normal e.g.

- Research into alternatives to play bark in the children's play area.
- Installation of new bench and picnic table.
- Addressing the incursion of rabbits on the field.
- Updating administrative procedures and the CHAFT section on the village website.



Photos taken in Charney; IG

Anyone looking for GB46? – A Rare Visitor!

In spite of the lockdown, we were treated to a rare visitor towards the end of March – a White Stork. She potted about feeding in the flooded field pools either side of the footpath to Cherbury Camp and behind Longworth Road.

Her blue leg tag (Darvic Ring) was clearly visible as GB46 and a quick tweet confirmed that she is one of the storks released by 'The White Stork' project as part of their reintroduction to the UK.

GB46, aka 'Doris', one of our free flying adults who came to us from Poland in 2018. She had been living at Wintershall estate, one of our partner sites, with a number of other storks until she left the site mid way through 2019. She flew south east and spent some time in Cuckmere Haven where she was reported to us on 06/09/19. We then had reports of her in Durrington, Wiltshire, on 13/09 where she was seen feeding in fields near the River Avon.

She then came here to Charney Bassett in the Vale of the White Horse for several days at the end of March. When the pools where Doris had been feeding dried up, she moved on and was seen in Southmoor before arriving at Day's Lock Scrape in Little Whittenham. On 7th April 2020 the project told us that 'She's now in Norfolk!'

[The White Stork Project](#) comprises a group of private landowners and nature conservation organisations working together to help white storks return home to England for the first time in 100s of years. Several have paired up and nested this year, so the project is hoping for some new arrivals brought by the storks themselves.

Information from The White Stork Project

McBains Yard and Old School House, New Road

The Vale has begun work on its next Local Plan (to 2041) and is asking for sites that might be suitable for development. The Parish Council wonders if McBains Yard should be put forward for housing. For further information see [Charney website](#). Councillors would like to hear residents' views before the next Parish Council meeting on 13th May. Please write to the Clerk (Trevor Brown, Wick Cottage, Charney Bassett) or email parishclerk@charneybassett.org.uk.

(The identity of responders will not be made public.)

Question!

What was this in the night sky over Charney at the end of March?

Answer on a later page.



Fancy something completely different? How about finding a black hole?

You may have seen the BBC's recent article 'Help needed to rescue UK's old rainfall records - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-52040822>', where the University of Reading were looking for help to transcribe the pre-1960 rainfall records for the UK. They had scanned 65,000 sheets containing the monthly rainfall totals for a particular decade at a particular station. Something like three to five million data points in all. Each sheet was transcribed at least 4 times so that the entries could be verified. This work was completed within just 3 weeks and several people in Charney helped!

This people-powered research harnesses people's time and interests to do invaluable research that computers can't yet do. There are lots of fascinating projects if you would like to get involved, e.g.

- Hunt for asteroids (Hubble Telescope)
- Criminal careers of Australian prisoners
- Galaxy zoo (find regions where stars are being born)
- Heritage Quest (hunt for archaeological sites on elevation maps)

Take a look at <https://www.zooniverse.org/projects>.

The Virtual Parish Council

Recent legislation allows the Parish Council to cancel this year's Annual Meeting or alternatively to hold the meeting on-line. Before Covid-19 neither would have been possible. After a (relatively) successful experiment - see photo - Councillors are hoping to hold the meeting planned for 13th May on Skype. More information will be provided nearer the time. Meanwhile, it would be helpful if anyone who might be interested in attending could notify the Clerk (parishclerk@charneybassett.org.uk) as this will help with organisational planning.



Charney 100 Club Draw

The results of the April draw are:

£25 No 19 Joe Ody
£10 No 1 Diane Ewart

Integrity of the results was maintained by asking one woman and her dog independently to draw the winning numbers, while applying social distancing, of course.

And the
winning
numbers
are...



If anyone would like a number or extra numbers please contact:
Charney 100 club organisers, Sally or Evelyn at charney100club@gmail.com

Church Services

Our local Benefice of Cherbury with Gainfield will be livestreaming services on Sundays. Please see the [Benefice homepage](#) for information and the link to the service via the YouTube channel.

May Day

Unfortunately, due to the current situation, the annual May Day event on The Green will have to be cancelled.

Answer to question: The International space station (ISS), with three people in it crossing in front of the moon.

BEWARE

It looks like there might be a gorilla on the loose in Charney Bassett. In a 250 yard stretch on the Lyford Road, 15 banana skins have been spotted.



What's New On The Charney Website

- [Numerous postings in news to keep everyone up to date](#)
- [Updating of CHAFT pages](#)

Council garden waste service welcomes new customers

Good news for people in southern Oxfordshire looking for ways to dispose safely of their garden waste. South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils have reopened their paid-for garden waste service to new customers.

The service has continued throughout the lockdown for existing subscribers. For a short period of time the council and waste contractor, Biffa, suspended taking on new customers to prioritise the kerbside household collections while members of the waste collection crews were off sick or self-isolating.

Biffa has now built up sufficient resilience in its workforce to enable new customers to join. The situation is being regularly monitored and residents should be aware that if staffing levels fall taking on new customers may need to be suspended again.

The service will also take extra garden waste (equivalent of another brown bin, e.g. three bin bags) on 11-15 May (Vale).

The service costs £49 per year and is an annual subscription paid by direct debit. As the council offices are currently closed to the public, at this time only online subscriptions can be taken. For more details see the online garden waste pages (Vale website).

What's new on the History Web Site?

David Ashby has now completed detailed reports on all 9 of the Test Pits that we have dug around the village and these are available as PDFs on the website and summarise all of the findings. Of particular note is the rock cut ditch in Test Pit 9 '*This feature ... represents an important discovery within the archaeology of Charney Bassett; this indicates that the village settlement may have first formed in about 5000 BC when the land was cleared for farming and settlement activities. Consequently, this may indicate a continuous use of the settlement, now known as Charney Bassett, from this early date.*'

What's new since 2020 March & April's Charney Chatters?

- [Archaeological Test Pits 1-4 Reports](#) (The Green and Mill Cottage)
- [Archaeological Test Pits 5-7 Reports](#) (The Manor Tennis Court)
- [Archaeological Test Pits 8 & 9 Reports](#) (Wick Cottage)
- [Clegg, Mineral Water Maker bottle](#) photo

In the coming weeks we might restructure The History Web Site so if you find a page is 'unavailable' it might be that we are working on it.

Photos - 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day (8-9 May)

OCC have posted the following on their Facebook page:

We'd like to ask residents to mark the important 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day (8-9 May) by submitting any recent or historical photos relating to World War Two in Oxfordshire for us to post on share across our social media channels; This could be a picture of a wartime parade, vehicles, aircraft, armed forces in our towns or villages at the time. It could also be a significant place such as an airfield or a village/town memorial that brings back memories and celebrates the brave efforts of those men and women across the County. This is at a time when we are recognising the efforts of our NHS staff, social care and community staff who are supporting those most in need.

We urge you to respect the current social distancing measures in photographing locations and not to make any exceptional journeys to take photos. Please only post images that you have ownership of and respect any private property and please do not share images of individuals unless you have their permission where appropriate.

Please submit any images in file sizes under 2mb by 6th May to jonathan.sayers@oxfordshire.gov.uk

The Chelsea Charney Chop

When the Charney Army started to give the willow arbour its annual prune, it was clear that there was a lot of dead wood - much more than had been seen last year. After much debate, it was decided that major surgery was needed, and it was time for the Charney Chop. The height of the arbour was reduced dramatically, and all dead wood removed. Some of the whips were replanted to replace the growth that had been removed.

As can be seen from the photograph, the arbour is responding well.

When normal service is resumed, the Charney Army is planning to chip the waste, which will then be used on the bridle path.





**OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL**
TRAFFIC REGULATION NOTICE
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT, 1984

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 14(2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act, 1984, that the Oxfordshire County Council

Temporarily Prohibits the Use of the Highway By All Motor Vehicles

LOCATION: Charney Bassett, Charney Road

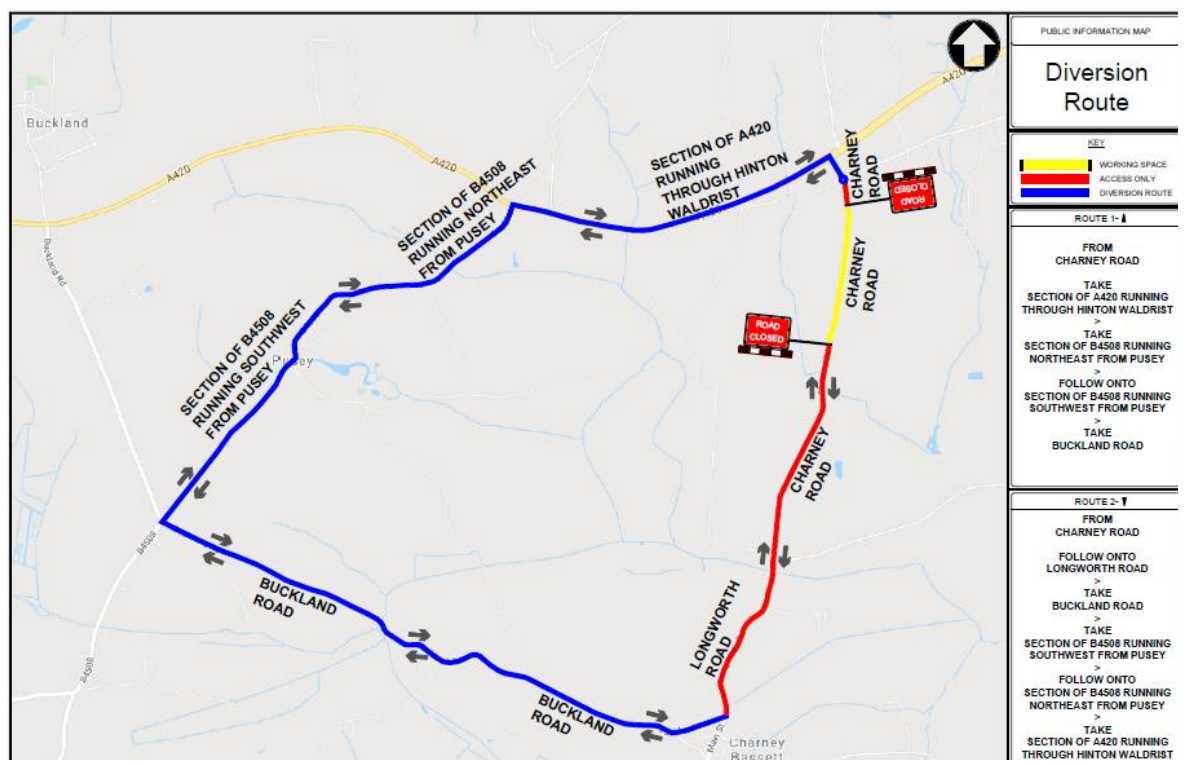
REASON: Installation of new BT ducting

DURATION: Starting on 11 May 2020
The anticipated completion date is 13 May 2020
(each day from 08:00hrs to 16:00hrs)

(Traffic Regulation Notices cover a maximum of 5 consecutive days)

ACCESS: Limited access will be maintained for emergency service vehicles and for frontages within the closed section of road, subject to the progress of the works

SUGGESTED ALTERNATIVE ROUTE: The alternative routes for traffic are via a combination of Charney Road – Longworth Road – Buckland Road – B4508 – A420 – Charney Road and vice-versa.



DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 20th May

Entries to: chatterinbox@btopenworld.com

Charney Chatter e-news is published monthly on behalf of the Parish Council and co-edited by Steph Wright 867418 and Amanda Graham 868974 in liaison with the editors of the village websites, John Wright and Ian Graham. Occasional news updates may be sent to subscribers at the discretion of the editors. Contributions should be e-mailed to chatterinbox@btopenworld.com by the 20th of each month in WORD format. You can unsubscribe by e-mailing echatter@btopenworld.com. Residents without e-mail facilities can ask for a hard copy to be delivered.

[The Parish Council's policy on privacy and data protection](#)