



Another day at Charney boot camp

A total of 60 panels treated, inside and out, plus 2 gates (painted with special Hi-Vis warning paint (safety requirement) , and 11 x 5 litre cans of paint used plus a lot of elbow grease.

Thanks to **all** for their hard work painting and organising.

And to Mark Richie who has also undertaken the laborious task of weeding the bark in the play area.



New benches - Stage 1

Well it may not be the sexiest element of the job but someone has to do it. Luckily for Charney, we have the wonderful Pete Hawkins who has laboured long and hard to prepare the plinths for the new benches, due to arrive shortly. Thank you Pete.





Photo by Lorraine Ashton

Some of the smaller residents of the Village

Bees of various kinds can be found all over Charney in gardens, flowering hedgerows and enjoying the flowers, wild and otherwise, which can be found along the Village verges and footpaths.

In the last few years, we have been reminded via articles and TV programmes how important it is to support bees and their habitat. Everyone can do their bit by including suitable plants in their garden, not over mowing or treating lawns to give bees a chance to harvest clover etc. and perhaps even providing a bee des res.

Lots of information about suitable plants and flowers and building/providing habitats can be found on the internet, e.g. the [Bumblebee Conservation Trust](#) or [Mason Bee Company](#).



Red Mason bees' nest tubes



Over 600 solitary bee cocoons, overwintering in a garden shed in Charney, awaiting the arrival of warmer weather in spring.





Charney's very own Derek McClintock (yes it is him in there) with some of the produce from his honey bees.



Chiffchaff or Willow Warbler?

(photo taken last week in a Charney garden)

The easiest way to tell these two birds apart is apparently by leg colour (easier said than seen) although even that is not definitive. Chiffchaffs have black legs and willow warblers have light brown legs. Chiffchaffs also constantly flick their tails whereas willow warblers only do it occasionally. Their bird song is quite different with Chiffchaffs calling their name.



Charney Bassett Village College

With the reopening of the Village Hall classes can once more be held although with restrictions. Given the size of the hall, exercise classes are restricted to 6 people. Some of the tutors have felt, for various reasons, unable to recommence face to face classes. Therefore, their classes will continue remotely via the Zoom platform for the time being and they should be contacted directly.

For those wishing to return to face to face classes the following are on offer.

Pilates -- Mondays 12.30pm --- Tuesdays 5.45pm

For an enrolment form for a class please contact Christine Trotman preferably by email cbvillagecollege@btinternet.com or 01235 869 171.



And following on from the above ...

As mentioned in last month's Chatter, much work has been undertaken to ensure the Hall is Covid compliant to ensure it is safe for use. It is good to see the return of one or two of the Pilates groups and table tennis.

Welcome to St Peter's Church

The church is now open for private reflection and prayer throughout the week.

Please observe social distancing rules, keeping two metres apart at all times, and use hand sanitiser as you enter and leave.

Please observe the Rule of Six – no more than six people in the church building and churchyard at any one time.

Please use the Test & Trace QR code to record your visit, or fill out a Test & Trace card and drop it in the post box by the entrance.

Thank you for helping to keep this church open for everyone as a safe environment of peace and spiritual refreshment.

Please do contact us on beneficecg@gmail.com or go to the Benefice website www.cherbury-gainfield.org.uk for information on services, when our other churches are open for private prayer and how to obtain pastoral support if you would like it.



Congratulations to Bill Clarke

Enjoying his 100 year birthday celebrations with a small group of family and friends.

See the [September Chatter](#) for information on Bill's connection with Charney. He also wrote a book ['A Charney Lad'](#)



CHAFT

Hallowe'en Fun

Decorated pumpkin competition
- open to everyone!

Join in by carving and decorating a pumpkin for
Saturday 31st October.

Add a tealight candle and put your pumpkin
inside your gate at Hallowe'en.

*NB please use a battery safety tealight or make sure your
pumpkin is very securely positioned if using a live flame.*

Please register your pumpkin, giving your name
and, if under 12, your age - by emailing Lucy on
gildersleeveslucy@gmail.com



*There will be a small prize for the most
interesting pumpkin.*

Parish Council

The Parish Council held a virtual meeting (by Skype) on 9th September and the following matters were discussed:

- Pam Edwards to take over management of the trough on the Village Green;
- The need for overgrown vegetation to be cleared from Charney Wick Ditch alongside Bridle Path;
- Recent financial transactions (current balance £10,545.58);
- Unauthorised works on land west of Denchworth Road that had blocked the roadside drainage ditch;
- Concerns at a possible increase in heavy traffic movements from NAP Grab Hire premises at Fyfield Wick;
- Development of land at Long Meadow Barn (Denchworth) without planning permission;
- Arrangements with CHAFT for tree work on Charney Field;
- Commencement of work to replace various benches around the Village.

[Full minutes of the meeting](#) are available on the website.

Help Needed

Charney is lucky to have a beautiful [Grade 1 listed church](#), St Peter's, as one of its assets. View a beautiful montage of it [here](#).

Would you be able to give less than an hour of your time once a month or so to help keep the church clean? Any assistance would be greatly appreciated.

If you would be prepared to volunteer then please contact Steph at chatterinbox@bopenworld.com.



Last minute celebration card needed?

And don't want to use the car?

Something a little different.

Unique and bespoke.

Delivered to your door!

Contact: Kay 868599



With the growing season coming to an end, the plant stall is now closed. A total of just over £500 has been raised to be split between CHAFT and St Peter's. Thank you to all who contributed and purchased and to Jacqui and Ian who kindly hosted the stall. This has been a lean year for fundraising for the Village, so everyone's support has been doubly appreciated.

Remember to take extra cuttings and plant a few more seeds for next year, when the stall will return.

Important Covid Update from the Vale of the White Horse District Council

There is a worrying trend of people turning up at hospitals in Oxfordshire, asking to be tested for Covid-19. This is possibly as a result of the national issue with testing capacity, where people have struggled to book a test online. The VWHDC is supporting NHS and Public Health colleagues in pushing out the extremely important message that people with symptoms must NOT go to a hospital. Testing does not take place in hospital settings and by turning up people are putting extra strain on resources by having to turn people away and also potentially putting vulnerable people at risk.

If you are struggling to book a test online the advice is to keep trying as it is only possible to book a slot when one becomes available. Slots become available throughout the day so it may take a few attempts at different times of the day.

The other key message is to only book a test if you're displaying symptoms. You can book a test by calling 119 or by registering online via gov.uk/getting-tested-for-coronavirus

Some Covid-19 news from the Local Government Association

The Government has recently announced the availability of the [NHS COVID-19 app](#) to download launched on Thursday 24 September in England and Wales.

As the app will include the ability to check into venues through a QR code, businesses are being encouraged to ensure they have the NHS QR code posters displayed in a prominent place ahead of the launch. The app will allow contact tracers to track down customers in order to provide public health advice in the event of a COVID-19 outbreak. Businesses who are already using their own QR system are being encouraged to switch to the NHS Test and Trace QR code.

Venues must also have an alternative check-in method in place to collect the details of any visitors or customers without the app, for example a handwritten register.

Help for residents struggling financially from Covid-19

The government has given councils some emergency assistance funding to support residents who are struggling financially as a result of the pandemic.

The VWHDC is working closely with local information and advice centres to help identify residents who might be in this situation and to help provide support.

If you become aware of anyone in this situation, please signpost them to one of the following:

- Citizens Advice – 0300 3309042
- Wantage Independent Advice Centre – 01235 765348

It is important that expectations are managed, as there are strict criteria that residents must meet to receive support, and it is important to be aware that any support received is emergency support while the council, along with other relevant agencies, works with residents to put in place an ongoing package of help.

Please note that these are limited funds, which councils are expected to spend by 31 October 2020 at the latest.



Do you know what can and can't go in your recycling bin?

It's National Recycling Week and crisp manufacturer Pringles has recently announced it will trial more recycling-friendly packaging, which is just as well as a survey has found residents in southern Oxfordshire say crisp tubes are the items they are most unsure of when it comes to recycling.

In addition to confusion over crisp tubes*, people are also unsure on whether kitchen roll or tissues could be recycled (no)* or whether they can put metal household items such as saucepans in the recycling bin (also no).

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils launched a [recycling quiz](#) this summer and residents rushed to take part with more than 1,800 answering so far.

Oh dear! Nearly a third of respondents wrongly think broken glassware such as measuring jugs, light bulbs or drinking glasses can be put in the recycling bin.

Vale of White Horse District Council cabinet member for the environment Cllr Catherine Webber said: "We are delighted so many people took the time to test their recycling knowledge with the quiz. It gives a good insight into what items people get stuck on when it comes to recycling. In response the councils have created a series of short films which we hope will help residents when they're wondering which bin to put things in."

The short films made by the councils' waste team are available here:

- Together we recycle – Help at home <https://youtu.be/m8P-RmQcRBQ>
- Together we recycle – Help the bin crews https://youtu.be/uctxUw3_q3Y
- Together we recycle – Call centre help - https://youtu.be/CYKa0fM5_ow
- Together we recycle – Help behind the scenes - <https://youtu.be/k2Bk8Xc52PQ>

*Crisp tubes are currently made of three materials - cardboard, plastic and metal - which cannot be easily separated, making recycling difficult. Also, the tear-off foil lid is lined with paper – this makes it difficult to recycle. Good news - you *can* put the plastic lid in your green recycling bin.

Old tissues and kitchen roll cannot be put in the recycling bin due to the low grade quality paper used. Although the inner cardboard tube from the kitchen rolls can be recycled.

Charney 100 Club Draw

The results of the September draw are:

£25 No 134 David Douglas (RIP)

£10 No 9 Diney Godfrey

Kindly drawn by Iain McGregor.

If anyone would like a number or extra numbers please contact:

Charney 100 club organisers, Sally or Evelyn at charney100club@gmail.com

The total donations to Acorns Children's Hospice Trust from the sale of face masks have now reached £788.

Please note that masks will only be available on the table in the carport at Gunton Barn until the end of September.

Julie would like to thank everyone who has supported her endeavours.



Do you want to know what your local MP is doing to earn his salary? Then why not read [David Johnston's monthly update](#) or go to [his own web site](#) for the latest news.

HOW SAFE IS YOUR ELECTRIC BLANKET?

FREE ELECTRIC BLANKET CHECKS IN OXFORDSHIRE

Make sure your blanket is safe to use this winter.

FREE

Things change

- but your safety is most important to us.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, we will test your blanket, but you will not be able to visit the test venue.

We will collect your blanket from your house, take it to be tested and then return it to your house (we will post you a plastic bag and label prior to our collection).

Testing in Oxfordshire in **OCTOBER 2020**

Monday 5 - Friday 9 and

Monday 19 - Friday 23

BOOKING INFORMATION:

To book your collection call **01865 895999 Option 1**

Or email: communityengagement@oxfordshire.gov.uk



DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 20th October

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.

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