



Charney Chatter

E83 December 2020



Covid Christmas Carols

This year our community carol singing and our traditional Christmas Eve carol service in St Peter's Church are affected by the uncertainty of Covid restrictions. Even if we are allowed to gather to sing together, and to hold socially distanced worship services, not everyone will feel able to leave home to join in. So this year we have planned something a little different!

A travelling carols and nativity event

Wednesday 23rd December at 7.30 pm

We are having a candle-lit peripatetic carols and readings, with a small travelling choir supported by Wantage Silver Band members. We will journey round the village, making stops at key locations where we will do a reading and sing a carol. We are inviting people to come to their doorsteps and join in the carol singing from their own garden. If Covid rules allow, people may also be able to come to the key stops to stand socially distanced and sing together. We are hoping to include a children's nativity procession as part of this event.

Our collection will be supporting Emmaus Oxford. To find out about their work, please visit <https://emmaus.org.uk/oxford/>. **Watch out for more information on this event nearer the time!**

How about a bit of Christmas sparkle to brighten up what has been a pretty grim year?

Let's light up Charney to bring some seasonal cheer. Many already indulge in a bit of festive sparkle but if you haven't done so for a few years then why not dust off those lights and put them up this December. Even a welcoming light in the window would do the trick – though perhaps no naked flames, as festive 'pyrotechnics' are not a good idea. No prizes, just pleasure.





*On Christmas Eve
Let's ring in the love
and hope of
Christmas together!*



Come out on your doorsteps for 6.00 pm on Christmas Eve with whatever bells you have, and join in a joyful ring of thanks and hope at this festive season.

The St Peter's Church bells will be joining in this national community ring!

The Chequers Village Christmas Meal

15th & 16th December
6.30 for 7 pm

Maximum of 6 per table
(subject to restrictions in place at the time)
Telephone 868642 to make a booking
(limited places available).
Further information to follow.



Pony Tales – Memories of Abingdon RDA



There are a number of people in the Village that volunteer, or have volunteered in the past, at the RDA just up the road towards Longworth. This book contains stories from over the years gathered from all sorts of people past and present, riders, volunteers, founders, even the ponies themselves. (Yes I had a few conversations with them that I recorded, my special favourite is the one with Princess (a huge grey horse) who has her rider placed on her back using a hoist and a conversation I had with her about it.) Available as a beautiful paperback or ebook!

With ALL of the proceeds going directly to Abingdon RDA: what a fantastic way to support us. Follow this link to find on Amazon <https://tinyurl.com/memoriesabingdonrda> or on Amazon, use the search words "Abingdon RDA".

Thank you. Amanda Graham

More Christmas gifts – shop local!

Christmas Sale of hand-sewn soft toys and patchwork items



All items are hand crafted by Julie Ingram-Johnson with proceeds going to charity



Children's soft toys, comforters, snakes, monkeys and a large assortment of dolls priced from **£3.00** to **£40.00** * Cushions and quilt wall hangings from **£10.00** to **£45.00** * Christmas fabric face masks from **£3.00** each * Quilts – various sizes and designs from **£40.00** each.

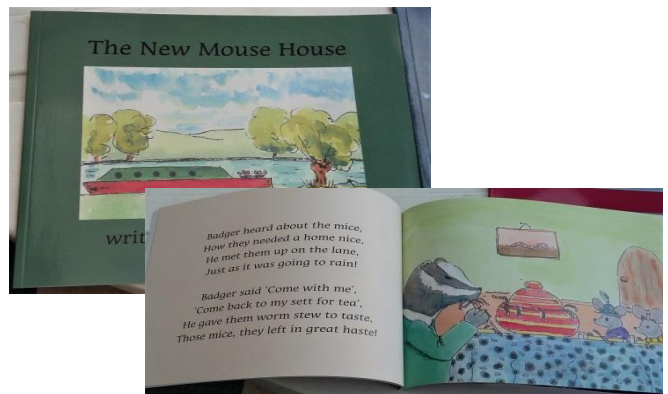
[For more information and the picture gallery, click here.](#) If you see something you would like to buy, or would like to know more about the range available, please contact Julie on: 868961 or by email julieingramjohnson@me.com to arrange viewing and purchase.

Cards, books and paintings

Source your cards locally from one of Charney's talented artists, Ruth Gerring. Christmas and a range other cards, as well as the amazing Charney map card available.



Also, if you're struggling to find that unique present, Ruth has assorted paintings to sell, plus her wonderful children's books, including the recently published 'The New Mouse House'.



Cards range from £1 to £2.50 and books are £6.50. A percentage of proceeds will be donated to St Peter's Church, Charney. Contact Ruth on 869083 and arrange to have a look.

Charney Field

The trees are down and now the stumps have mostly been cleared.



Stump grinding at work.



Then on to spreading the chippings.



Charney History Group

Small Holdings:

In 1908 the **Small Holdings and Allotments Act** came into force. The aim was to bring people back to the land and it gave local authorities the power and duties to acquire land either on the open market or by compulsory purchase and *to provide small holdings for persons who desire to buy or lease and will themselves cultivate the holdings.*

This was a significant social change and controversial. Berkshire County Council acquired most of Charney Village, which was being sold as part of the Pusey Estate sale and two additional farms. Some of the controversial effects were that existing farmers had to move elsewhere and rents, which had been kept artificially low by the Pusey Estate, would increase to commercial values that might be unaffordable for the old and poor in the village. On the positive side new people were able to work the land and the Council repaired and improved some of the properties.

The debate/argument was taken up in *The Times* with an exchange of letters between Sir William Anson, Bart., M.P. and Mr E. A. Strauss, M.P. citing Charney as an example.

In other coverage: *"But, for some reason or other, it was decided to form a "central colony." The site selected was Charney, the situation of which is peculiarly adapted to make it the most unsuitable spot in the county for the successful development of this venture."*

You can read more about [this fascinating part of Charney history on the website](#).

What's new on the website since November's Charney Chatter?

- [Presentation, by The Choir, to Rev J Whitehurst March 1882](#)
- Setting up Small Holdings in Charney – [Sir William Anson, Bart., M.P., and Mr E. A. Strauss, M.P. arguing in 'The Times' about the impact plus other commentary.](#)
- Various newspaper articles including [fighting after a Charney Feast and other fights!](#)
- [TENDERS for the Restoration of CHARNEY CHURCH](#) 18 August 1877
- [Floods at Charney](#) June 1903

The History of Charney Bassett

AN ISLAND VILLAGE

[Home](#) [Early History](#) [Recent History](#) [Buildings and Structures](#) [Photos](#) [Contact](#) [Resources](#)



Welcome

It is now just over 4 years since the History Website was launched and it has continued to grow.

If you have memories, documents or photos to share please get in touch - charney.history@btinternet.com.

With nearly 40,000 page-views to date it continues to be a valuable and interesting resource for the village and indeed around the world.



Autumn Memories



Pumpkins were carved and prizes won



Now we see rainbows
With a hint of rain
Yellow leaves, brown leaves
Red varnished leaves
Floating in a cool whispering light.

(poem by a friend)

November

Memories



The great Orchard Close makeover



Due to Covid, Joe Ody was unable to do his usual round of the village for the Poppy Appeal. If you wish to donate it is still possible to do so direct via [The Royal British Legion](https://www.thelegion.org.uk/).

The second lockdown began. Hibernating until Christmas





Christmas Appeal 2020



The Oxford Christmas Lunch usually hosts a Christmas Day lunch and party for over 500 people in the community, including the homeless or vulnerably housed.

Instead, because of Covid, this year they will deliver lunches to those who would have attended, along with a bag of 'treats and toiletries'.

Our Christmas Appeal this year is for items to put in these treat bags.

We are asking for:

Food treats

- ★ *Tins of good quality meat/fish/vegs/soups*
- ★ *Pasta/dried fruits*
- ★ *Christmas treats – chocolates, biscuits, cakes*

Toiletries

- ★ *something which would be a treat to receive: gift soaps, gift shampoos and toiletries*

Please leave gifts unwrapped, packaging to a minimum, no alcohol or glass

Donations can be left in the basket in St Peter's Church porch any time from 1st December to 18th December. Items will be picked up from there daily.

Or if it is difficult for you to drop off donations at the church in person

CONTACT Lucy Gildersleeves who will arrange for your donations to be collected from you. gildersleeveslucy@gmail.com or 01235 868782

If you would like to make a financial donation, details can be found on the Benefice website

★ **THANK YOU!** ★

From the Parish Council - Road Safety

Road Safety was residents' top priority in the Community-Led Plan and a well-attended public meeting in 2018 came up with a range of improvements people would like to see.

The County Council is the highway authority, and together we have managed to bring about:

- An initial traffic speed and volume survey;
- Improved white lining at junctions;
- Cut back in vegetation at Buckland Road and Longworth Road;
- Pedestrian Warning signs where there are no footpaths;
- Sharks teeth and narrowing markings at village entrances;
- White Gates at three of the village entrances.

Thanks to the Charney Army we also have a safe pedestrian link from New Road to Buckland Road.

Much has been achieved but more needs to be done. The County Council paid for some of the above measures but increasingly expects Parish Councils to contribute financially. The White Entrance Gates were only made possible by us paying half the cost and our getting a grant for the remainder.

We badly want to get gates installed at Buckland Road and to move the 30 mph signs further from the New Road junction, but the cost is challenging (see [20190305_CBPC_DesiredRoadSafetyMeasures_docx.pdf \(charneybassett.org.uk\)](#) for more detail).

Some would like to see electronic speed warning signs of the type installed recently in West Hanney (although these are not universally popular in village settings). They cost about £2,500, with more needed for annual servicing and mounting posts. West Hanney managed to pay for its signs from developer contributions. But we are classed as 'open countryside' so will see very few new houses (and correspondingly little money). Lobbying the District Council to share with small settlements like us a little of the developer contributions it takes from the larger housing schemes proved fruitless.

So, we are trying to build up a road safety fund from our annual precept, but this will take time. Meanwhile we have started to look at ways that might better control the number of heavy lorries coming through the village, and lobbied recently for controls on lorries routeing from a major recycling site in Fyfield Wick. If you are concerned about these issues and feel you might be able to help take them forward, please get in touch with the Parish Clerk ([Councillors - The Village of Charney Bassett](#)).

New speeding taskforce group aims to save lives

Residents will be given more of a say on how to stop drivers speeding in their neighbourhoods, thanks to a new organisation set up by Oxfordshire County Council to tackle the problem in Oxfordshire. ([Full article available online.](#))

Charney Field – Woodland Project Latest

The aspen trees have now been felled and the timber has been removed to temporary storage pending collection by the processing plant which is buying it to make eco-burner pellets.

The playing field has been rolled once to smooth out ruts caused by the felling machinery.

The stump-grinding has been completed and volunteers have spread a first layer of chippings along the bridle path. The footpath past Debar and the willow arbour have also been resurfaced. Once this first layer has settled, the process will be repeated in about three weeks' time and any remaining ground unevenness around stump holes will be levelled off.

The Children's Play Area has been reopened (temporarily closed during the stump-grinding) and the stakes and tape removed from the field.

If you walk down the bridleway you will notice that there are a few stumps within the bank of the Charney ditch that have not been ground out. The reason for this is that following the risk assessment undertaken before grinding began, CHAFT were strongly advised against grinding these particular stumps as this was likely to cause significant damage to the ditch bank and would also result in a quantity of ground-out material falling into the bed of the ditch itself, exacerbating the problem of the clogged waterway. CHAFT is currently taking advice on the best way to deal with these stumps in order to protect the waterway and bank.

CHAFT will continue to provide updates as the woodland redevelopment proceeds.

Parish Council Meeting of 11th November

The Parish Council is still having to meet 'virtually' and was much encouraged that four residents were able to attend the last meeting. Items discussed included the following:

- Maintenance of Charney ditch alongside the Bridle Path;
- Representations to RAF Benson on increasing helicopter manoeuvres over the village;
- Planned spending for 2021-22, including on:
 - Road safety;
 - New Speedwatch camera gun;
 - Charney Mill and Mill Race;
 - Display Boards for Cherbury Camp;
 - Annual subvention to CHAFT;
- Concerns at development at Swannybrook Farm (Fyfield Wick) and Long Meadow Barn (Denchworth);
- Progress on Charney Field Woodland Project;
- Composition of a Woodland Project Group.

Full minutes of the meeting can be found on the [website](#).

Charney 100 Club Draw

The results of the November draw are:

£25 No 29 Dave and Kate Belcher
£10 No 52 Jane Dale

Kindly drawn by Joe Ody.

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

What's New On The Charney Bassett Website

- [Parish Council draft minutes, November 2020](#)
- [News from your MP – David Johnston](#)

Want to learn to play the ukulele?

George normally spends a large part of the year on cruise ships teaching passengers to play the ukulele, and running the ukulele sessions at the U3A in Faringdon. That's not happening now, of course, so he has offered to run some sessions in Charney. When we can access the Village Hall, he would run 6 one-hour sessions for 10 people at a cost of about £60.00. That will include a free ukulele and song book to keep. Until we have access to the hall, he will run some introductory Zoom sessions.

Details need to be ironed out, and we have to know a bit more about Covid restrictions, but, just to establish if there is any interest, could you let Peter Busby know? Email peterbusby10@gmail.com, or phone 868520.

Village College

New Class - Vinyasa Flow yoga

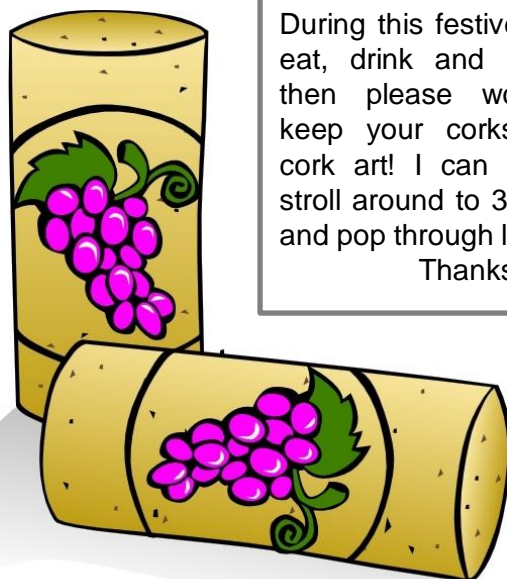
Once the village hall is open again, we are looking to offer a new yoga class. It will be mixed ability Vinyasa Flow and so is suitable for beginners. Cost will be £10 per class. Day and time of the class is yet to be determined but most likely to be daytime or early evening. Minimum of 2 people required for the class to go ahead and due to current restrictions in the hall maximum number will be 5.

If you are interested in joining the class please contact Christine Trotman
cbvillagecollege@btinternet.com.

CHAFT Management Committee

Virtual meeting by Zoom
Wednesday 9th December 2020
6.30pm

To join the meeting or to ask a question please email charneychaft@gmail.com



During this festive season, eat, drink and be merry then please would you keep your corks for my cork art! I can collect or stroll around to 3 Barnfield and pop through letterbox!

Thanks Amanda



Beware of scams and crimes

Criminals are using the COVID-19 pandemic to scam the public. To help you avoid becoming a victim, we have highlighted on our website the wide variety of [COVID-19 scams and crimes](#) which have arisen, key protection advice and guidance on how to report these scams.

Neighbourhood Watch launches PROTECT YOUR Pa\$\$W0rd campaign with 3 quick and easy steps

Currently spending more time at home and on online devices, over one third (34%) of people say that they're more concerned about cybercrime than physical crime and a startling 1 in 5 people are a victim of cybercrime! You could be more at risk than you might think.

As part of Cyberhood Watch initiative, launched in 2019 in partnership with Avast, a **PROTECT YOUR Pa\$\$W0rd** campaign has been launched. It provides everyone with 3 easy steps to be more secure online.

PROTECT YOUR Pa\$\$W0rd in 3 easy steps

1. Create a separate password for your email account
2. Use 3 random words
3. Turn on two-factor authentication (2FA)

Find out more about how to do each step by visiting the [Password Protection](#) page on the Neighbourhood Watch website.

Artweeks May Festival 2021

To register for ARTWEEKS 2021 visit www.artweeks.org

OXFORDSHIRE ARTWEEKS is open to ALL - amateur and professional artists/craft makers alike, galleries, community and charity groups that live or work in Oxfordshire.

Deadline for registering exhibition entries: 31st January 2021

(This is an extended deadline for 2021 only.)

May exhibitions will be required to be COVID-SECURE. If circumstances cause last minute wholesale changes as they did this year, venues will then be able to choose to mark themselves as Open/Open by Appointment only (as well as postponed/closed).

Alongside the physical festival, Oxfordshire Artweeks will host a virtual festival over the same period. As it is unlikely the festival guide can be distributed in print in the normal way in 2021, it will be produced in digital versions only.

DATES for the 2021 festival are 1st - 23rd May

North Oxfordshire 1st-9th May [3rd Bank Holiday Monday]

Oxford City 8th-16th May

South Oxfordshire 15th-23rd May



A Very Merry Christmas to all our Readers!

THERE WILL BE NO JANUARY ISSUE

DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY ISSUE: 20th January

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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