



# Charney Chatter

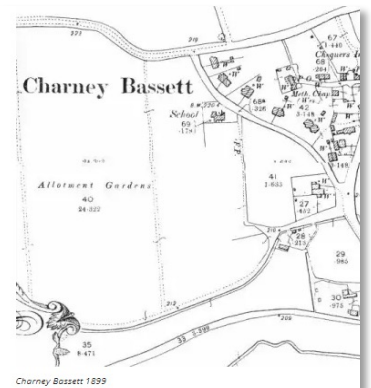
E117 March 2024

## The Plot Thickens



Playing Field

The new village allotments are getting ever closer and hopefully will be in full production this season. CLAP – The Charney & Lyford Allotment Partnership has been formed as the group responsible for the management of the plot, which is the area just north of the playing field. Apparently, this site used to be the village allotments along with most of the playing field itself (see map on [History Website!](#)). It was then a pig field and more latterly used as grazing for horses. The plans are to erect new fencing as soon as the legal paperwork is completed on the lease, clear the site and lay out ten allotments. Villagers have already expressed interest in renting allotments, each plot being roughly the size of a badminton court.



Once the site has been cleared, we can establish exactly what area is available and whether there is space for more plots. CLAP also hopes to provide mini plots for those who want a smaller area or might be first timers to the joy of growing your own fruit & veggies. If you are interested in renting an allotment which will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, please contact Madelyn Parsons CLAP Secretary at [madelynparsons13@gmail.com](mailto:madelynparsons13@gmail.com)

## The Ock and Bridge– a brief history....

### The River Ock

The River Ock, also known previously as the River Cearn, rises near the village of Little Coxwell and joins The Thames at Abingdon under a bridge constructed by the Wilts and Berks Canal Company. It flows just to the south of Charney, which is one of 'The Island Villages', being 'The Island ('ey') in the River Cearn',

The Ock is a pre-Saxon word meaning young salmon.



The original Ock bridge is the first bridge on leaving Charney towards Denchworth and is undated. The Keck Map of 1765 shows a ford without a bridge. The apparently similar (listed) bridge at Lyford is dated 1837 so perhaps Charney's bridge was built at a similar time. If anyone knows, or can find out, please get in touch.

The Ock "flood alleviation works" were undertaken in about 1974/5. Prior to this, a lot of the Ock water, perhaps nearly all of it, used to flow down the mill race, past Wick Cottage and then on through the Mill. Maps prior to 1974 show that any water that didn't follow the route of the mill race had to flow through a rather tortuous route to the south of the millstream, until it rejoined the mill outflow, downstream of the mill.

A polished neolithic [flint axe-head](#) was dredged from the River Ock at Charney Bassett in the summer of 1978. On one of our recent digs a neolithic flint knapping site was found adjacent to the (now) mill stream in the grounds of Wick cottage.



'[Charney Manor](#)' was a grange, built by Abingdon Abbey, to house the steward or bailiff appointed to look after the Abbey's lands around Charney. Charney had to provide the Abbey with a specified number of bushels of grain and barrels of fish every year etc and it was the bailiff's job to see that these were delivered. The fish was principally salmon from The Ock and there were/are medieval fish ponds downstream of Charney Mill.



There is much more information on [The Ock Webpage](#).

If you have memories, photos or other information that you can add please get in touch via [charney.history@btinternet.com](mailto:charney.history@btinternet.com)

## 20 mph for Charney

True to their word, Oxfordshire County Council has implemented the promised change in the Village speed limit. We know that this doesn't meet with universal approval but when we invited comment last year the great majority of residents wanted to see this change. In addition, the speed limit starting point has been extended further out on the Buckland Road approach to village.

One of the criticisms was that the police will never enforce it. Whilst we are sadly unlikely to see a police presence in Charney, we do have our own Hi-Viz in the form of the Speedwatch Group who will continue to use the agreed monitoring points to show that there is a visible human presence behind the scheme. Any cars driving over the limit (an extra 15% leeway is allowed) are reported to the police who do issue warning letters to the driver. Persistent offenders will get a personal visit from the police!

We are one of 280 Speedwatch Groups across the Thames Valley Police region and some 50,000 letters were issued to speeding motorists last year as a result of their efforts.



## More HGVs on Charney roads?

Continuing the traffic theme, we have recently learned that more lorries like this could be coming through the village from the A420 if the Vale Council decides to approve the large Solar Farm being proposed on land at Manor Farm (between Denchworth and West Hanney).

In order to build this scheme materials will arrive on 16.5 metre articulated trucks. There will be 8 two-way movements (i.e. 16 single trips) a day for a period of 6 months! Originally these were to be routed off the A417 through Goosey, but residents there are fortunate in having a 7.5 tonne weight limit on that road (why don't we have one here: our roads seem no different?) and the consultants managed to overlook that fact! So, they have reviewed their work and decided the better route to the site is through Charney.

The Parish Council has submitted an objection to the application (copy available or click [here](#)) given the unacceptable impact of this traffic on the village and the safety of all users of Longworth and Denchworth Roads (including horse riders, walkers and runners). Details of the application can be found on the Vale website ([ref P23/V2673/FUL](#)) and representations can still be made while the application is undetermined.





# Can You Help?

The data we collect from our two traffic speed devices shows that they do help to reduce traffic speeds in the village (sadly we will never reach the few idiots that still make a point of roaring through) and the reduced 20mph speed limit should help further.

But we do need to keep moving these devices around the four approved locations (hopefully we will soon have a fifth) otherwise we could get into trouble with the County Council (Highway Authority).

The 3 volunteers who currently do the moves could badly do with some help. We need the youth of the village (at least anyone who feels young enough to do a little physical work) to step forward please. It is not that demanding. Two people can do the installation and we should be moving the devices every 6-8 weeks.



Moving the two devices takes a couple of hours and the more volunteers we can call on the fewer times in the year each needs to be involved.

The volunteer team is organised by Steve Champion

([millcottage.cb@btinternet.com](mailto:millcottage.cb@btinternet.com)) and Sue kindly takes charge of the data download. Please, please, please consider getting in touch with Steve to offer a small piece of your time for the overall good of the village.

Thank you.



CHARNEY HALL & FIELD TRUST

**THINKING  
OF  
VOLUNTEERING**

WE ARE EXTREMELY GRATEFUL TO EVERYONE  
IN THE VILLAGE WHO ALREADY VOLUNTEER  
IN HELPING WITH THE UPKEEP OF THE VILLAGE HALL AND FIELD  
HOWEVER WE NEED MORE HELP.

WE NEED MORE PEOPLE TO STEP UP AND BE TRUSTEES

WE ALSO REQUIRE A HALL  
BOOKING SECRETARY

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN HELPING TO MAINTAIN TWO VALUABLE VILLAGE  
ASSETS FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS AND WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT  
WHAT IS INVOLVED PLEASE MAKE CONTACT.

[charneychaft@gmail.com](mailto:charneychaft@gmail.com)

# Charney Bassett Parish Council

Agenda and minutes of meetings can be found online at [charneybassett.org.uk](http://charneybassett.org.uk) including the draft minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> January.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 7.30pm.

Trevor Brown (Parish Clerk) can be contacted at [parishclerk@charneybassett.org.uk](mailto:parishclerk@charneybassett.org.uk) for further information.

SSN Distribution | Important information

## STORM UPDATE

**Scottish & Southern  
Electricity Networks**  
Our website [ssen.co.uk](http://ssen.co.uk)  Power cut? **CALL 105**

If you see any damage to our equipment, please stay back, don't touch it and instead report it to us directly by calling 105, or via our [Power Track website](#), and our engineers will investigate as soon as possible.

Prepare for the possibility of disruption to supplies by:

- Saving the emergency power cut number - '105' - to your phone to report any loss of supply or damage to the electricity network
- Visiting our [Power Track Website](#) to give you details of power cuts and restoration times. You can also report power cuts and network damage through Power Track.
- Visiting the "[Preparing for a power cut](#)" section on our website, where there is a wealth of advice and information, or to chat live to one of our advisors via the Webchat service

Customers are also eligible for our [Priority Services Register](#) (PSR) if they:

- Are deaf or hard of hearing
- Have a disability
- Live with children under five
- Are blind or partially-sighted
- Have a chronic illness
- Use medical equipment/aids reliant on electricity
- Are over 60.

To find out more about the PSR, click [here](#) or call 0800 294 3259.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2024

## FRIDAY 1 MARCH

A SERVICE FOR EVERYONE!

I beg you, bear with one another in love

# 2.00 pm

## St Mary's Church

### Longworth

*Everybody welcome!*

**INFORMED PRAYER, PRAYERFUL ACTION**  
24-7 • 365 DAYS A YEAR • PRAYER MOVEMENT • ECUMENICAL INTERNATIONAL • WOMEN-LED

[wwdp.org.uk](http://wwdp.org.uk) Registered Charity Number 233242



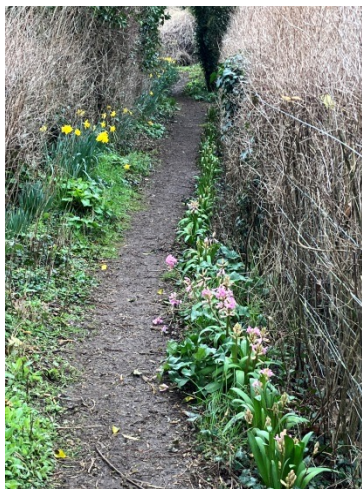
# Around and About



Our lovely Willow Spiral sorted!  
With many thanks to Anna Moffatt.



Floods and fighting pheasants in Buckland Road



Spring has Sprung!



Ugh!



## Dates For Your Diary

## SEW & SOCIAL SESSIONS

Thursdays (all welcome), 10.00 am – Noon,  
Village Hall

## History & Archaeology Group Meeting

Mon, 4<sup>th</sup> March, 10.30 am – Noon, Village Hall

## PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> March, 7.30 pm, Village Hall



OCC provide regular online information about its latest initiatives and campaigns. The most recent news is available [here](#).

## Charney 100 Club Draw

**The results of the February draw are:**

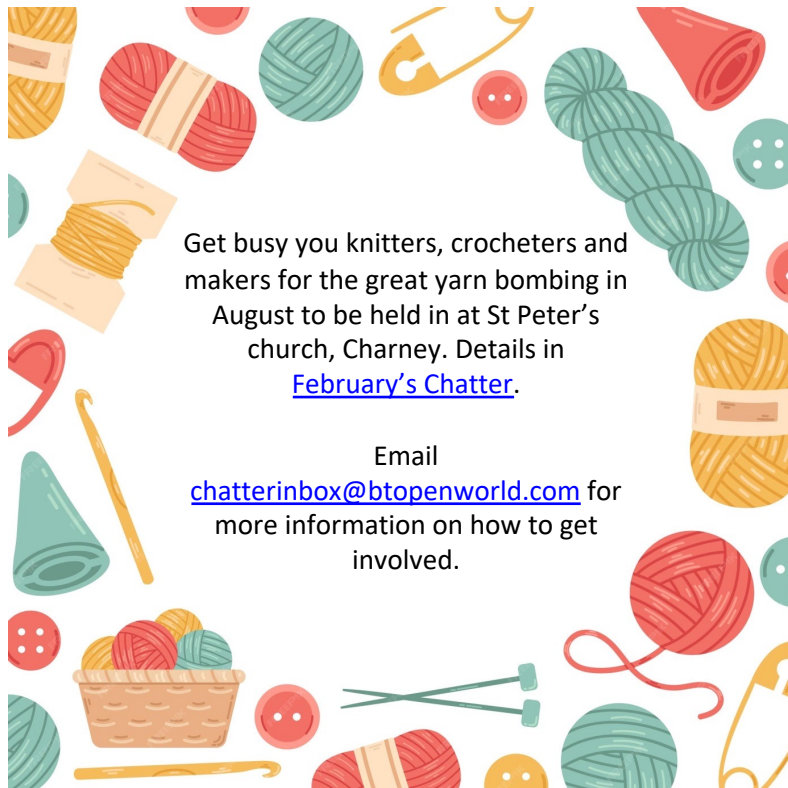
£25 No 62 Paul Bartlett

£10 No 19 Joe Ody

Kindly drawn by Sheila and Della

## What's New On The Charney Bassett Website

- [Latest news from your MP – David Johnston](#)
- [Development of Solar Farm, Denchworth – PC Comments on Application](#)



**DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 20<sup>th</sup> March**

Entries to: [chatterinbox@btopenworld.com](mailto: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@btpenworld.com](mailto:chatterinbox@btpenworld.com) by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month in WORD format. You can unsubscribe by e-mailing [echatter@btpenworld.com](mailto:echatter@btpenworld.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