View this email in your browser

Charney Chatter
February 2026

A Special Thank you

On 15th January Parish Council Chairman David Roberts met with David Hatton to present him with gifts to mark his service to the Parish Council and community. David has been a trusted Sunday Sidesman at Christ Church, served as Vice Chairman for many years, helped with the Village Hall Committee, and improved considerably since last year, to the point that he (dare) that he was thinking of standing for re-election!

David was presented with a framed tribute put together by Councillor Roy Jackson, which features a selection of iconic period photographs of the village.

Charney and Lyford Allotment Partnership (CLAP) Update

Allotment holders had a productive 2025 season despite the challenging weather conditions. Harvest have got to grips with their plots, with a range of designs, horticultural structures and crops ranging from traditional veg staples to more exotic offerings.

All are welcomed, volunteer to turn McGregor for providing a water bowser that kept plots watered during the height of the challenging dry summer months. Volunteer to turn Mr Fixit who fixed and we then gratefully to the supplier for making short-term access arrangements. A more permanent solution will be sought.

The local rabbit population has demonstrated extraordinary persistence in finding access points into the site. Allotment holders will undertake further work to secure the site against rabbits and other pests. Work is underway on a review of the existing hedge adjacent to the allotments and to the north of Charney playing field will be undertaken. Rabbits and the no-dig bower have ravaged the plots donated by the Woodland Trust. Depending on what has survived, it is hoped to garner, where necessary.

As we allotment holders has recently left the village, there are currently two plots available on the site. If you are interested in taking on one of these allotment schedule, grow your own and enjoy the pleasures of fresh home grown produce, please contact us.

For more information or information contact Mike, at
kathgoodwin@hotmail.com or 07946 729267.

Charney Arms pop up pub returns to the Village Hall

Kathy Goodwin, January Grant Cole along to our next pop up pub night on 28th January from 7.00-9pm. We will run a quiz once again but based on Needlecraft, Knitting and Sewing. Please come along to support the Village Hall Committee and celebrate the achievement and enjoy time with others in the village. For those who are doing Dry January, you will need to bring your own boozes, but we will be selling tea coffee and something yummy.

First night in October was so capacity, but we were rather in November as a few people had to leave to get home to their babysitters, so we will be doing the same evening. We have discussed inviting up the pub Charlie, with Brewery or international food evenings.

Any games please message Jacqui Hamilton via Facebook or at
jacqui.hamilton@outlook.com

The Chequers – Message from the Owner

The vision for the Chequers is a family-friendly country pub for the local community, open as much as it can be possible, including from Friday lunchtime, which is just next door.

In order for the Chequers to fulfill its true potential, we feel it requires a comprehensive refurbishment and improvement programme. This will include the hard-wiring, bedroom accommodation, plumbing, electrics, etc. We would be changing the historic chairs and copy, country pub feel, making sure any improvements are in keeping with the building, but with a modern feel. We are working with local architects (Cogwell Field), local Conservation Officer and planning advisor (Savills).

Unfortunately there have been delays. The pre-app planning office has been overwhelmed with applications, so we have missed our target, at least two but further, but across between May and September. This means we cannot do any building work ahead of these crucial long-waiting planning consents, so it is going to be a very busy summer, with the work being done in the quieter months of October and November. Despite this we submitted planning in December with a condition of satisfying any ecology findings once bats have left for the winter.

We feel this is a vision or a generation opportunity to bring the pub up to date and to help future proof it by creating a fit for purpose kitchen and dining area and by enhancing the existing bits offering. We have applied to make the pub more family friendly, so we can welcome the local community as much as possible way, replacing the sheds and outdoor fridges. As many pubs across the country struggle we need to ensure we are offering our customers the best possible experience and product, so we can be sustainable and hopefully continue to stay. With that in mind we are also proposing to add four bedrooms (with en-suite shower rooms) to the three bedrooms that already exist.

Assuming we get the consents, we will need to close for a period of time, which we anticipate to be 20 weeks to complete the work. We will be able to do some pop-up pub, which could operate from the garden, on occasion, in the summer. We need to keep the village up to date on progress and activities and will continue to do so via the Charney Chatter (and website once live).

The Chequers Inn, Charney.

The Chequers Public House – plans are now live

Plans have now been submitted to West Oxfordshire District Council for rebuilding the rear section of the pub. In summary, this will result in a new kitchen, dining area, toilets, and four bedrooms. The existing building will remain car park and rear garden area. Plans can be viewed online at TW22/0447/FUL.

The period to make comments to the District Council extends to 6th February 2026. Although the Parish Council is not a statutory consultee on this application, Charney making comment on the application to the District Council is welcome to also copy their comments to the Parish Council, who can then take into account when they are considering the application. If you would like a hard copy of your comment to the Parish Council, please email the Clerk at
carolyhardy@charneybassett.org.uk.

Bus Shelter

The Parish Council has become aware that some people use the bus shelter has recently got rather out of hand. Thank you to Janice Hall who has kindly offered her services. The PC has now approached a volunteer to handle the bus shelter and has created a licence of repair.

Please pick up your goods home in the correct house with bins to avoid unpleasant smells and attracting rodents.
For health and safety reasons, no toys or other items should be left in the bus shelter.

New Bus Service!

First and Last Mile CIC (https://www.firstandlastmile.org.uk), a small Community Transport operator based in Stanton Harcourt, are pleased to inform you that they have been awarded a 12 month contract to operate a new service by the Office of the Traffic Commissioner, their service will operate two services on a Monday to Wednesday, the 401.

This has come about because both Wolvercote Neighbourhood Transport based in Banbury and Witney have gone into February and FLM are providing services that they cannot cover.

This does not replace the existing Wednesday 66 service run by Oxfordshire County Council Fleet Services which will continue to run unchanged. This is an additional service which Fist Mile Last Mile have kindly agreed to take on the contract.

The bus will leave the Bus Shelter at 08:44 and arrive at Wantage, Market Square at 09:15 and return from Market Square at 15:15 to arrive back at the Bus Shelter around twenty to Monday. Market Square at 15:15 ties in perfectly with the Health Centre and Grove on request, if all timetables will be available shortly.

Concessionary bus passes and Wallys tickets are accepted and there is no charge for travel. Fare for charity passengers are:

Adult Single - £3
Child Single - £2
13 Tap Tickets - £25

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact FLM either by email: info firstandlastmile@gmail.com or by phone: 07384 607002.

Details of how to book can be found here.

Charney Bassett Parish Council

The Parish Council met on Wednesday 14th January, and has members of the public was attended.

The Parish Council agreed its aims and objectives for 2026. Amongst the specific aims and plans a mixed information boards related to Charney Bassett and further actions to improve road safety in the village.

An update was presented on the proposed application to re-open the closed path between Chalkpits Lane and Burfa Cottages (Footpath 346/4). When the path was closed, it was diverted onto the adjacent road, which has proved to be a dangerous footpathway similar to repair pavements along Main Street. Lee has been instrumental in getting priority for resurfacing works on nearby roads and has kindly offered to include the footpath in the proposed works. Lee has also volunteered to support the Parish Council initiative to apply to Oxfordshire County Council for a 7.5 tonne Weight Restriction Order to limit HGV traffic passing through the village. Further information can be found on www.charneybassett.org.uk, together with agendas and minutes of meetings including the draft minutes of the 14th January parish meeting.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 11th March 2026 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Residents are welcome to attend.

Trees Brown (Parish Clerk) can be contacted on
carolyhardy@charneybassett.org.uk

Parish Councillor details can be found at www.charneybassett.org.uk/council-parish/parish-council

Bag it and bin it!

The problem with dog waste around the village appears to have got a lot better in the last year or so. Thank you to all of the considerate dog walkers who bag it and bin it. Hopefully there will be no need at the Grove disposal bins in the near future.

However, there now seems to be a repeat offender who bags the mess – the hanker-pant, sorry!, and then leaves it by the side of the path or hanging in a tree, trusting that someone else will dispose of it! Please sort all dog waste out and bin it, or take it home with you.

Please think of others who enjoy the lovely walks around our village and don't do half a job – see it through properly. Thank you!

A Tree to be proud of

Thank you to all those who involved in ensuring, setting up and taking down this year's Christmas Tree. It was a welcoming beacon of light at the centre of the village where the Chequers would normally be and so welcoming.

First and foremost thanks must go to the anonymous tree donor – out there somewhere. It was such a splendid 12' specimen we could be forgiven for thinking it was a Christmas tree farm! Unbelievably generous.

Then, thanks to those involved in sourcing the new strings of lights. The Parish Council dipped its hand in to provide for this, but was also helped by a generous donation from Charney Hall. The Village Hall Committee, Lee Brown, Jacqui Hamilton and all others who enjoy the tree made sure it was lit up and looked the order. He was also instrumental in organising the working party that set up the tree and (more) always a cast party had a blast.

We now have an ultra-safe working system for future years thanks to the generosity of Charney Hall and the Parish Council who have agreed to fund providing service on the installation. WODC have also been helpful previously with sorting work at Charney Mill and by the Gatehouse.

Thanks also to those who helped with taking down the tree and taking down to the electricity supply in her barn. The tree helped attract a bumper event for the traditional carol service on the Village Green and a good time was had by all in the Village Hall afterwards. The tree looked better in the barn and some excellent sausage rolls and mince pies.

Cut energy bills with a FREE home upgrade!

Oxfordshire County Council has been awarded government funding to help residents of a low income make their home warmer and more energy efficient.

Through the Warm Homes Local Grant, eligible households can receive fully-funded upgrades such as insulation, heating controls and solar panels. This scheme is open to homeowners and private tenants.

Residents may qualify if
- Your household income is below £36,000, OR
- They receive means-tested benefits

OR
- Their home has an EPC rating of D, E, F or G

Funding is limited and demand is high, so don't delay, apply today!
Find out more: www.warmhomesoxfordshire.co.uk

Charney History - Scenes and Buildings in Miniature

Pension Museum preserves the quite, rural scenes and transport of the 1950s and 60s in miniature, with over 1,000 exhibits in a purpose-built museum. It was founded by Royal England and is an independent museum not amassed artifacts, by volunteers and funded by visitors and loyal Friends.

Charney Bassett is represented in the museum by a collection of dioramas of buildings and those interested in 19th Century rural England (and it can cover The Vale of White Horse), its buildings and its railways. The Vale Scene is made up of 19th Century buildings, including Charney Bassett Church, farm buildings and railways to the local stopovers. Many features of the Vale have either been demolished or significantly modified since the 1950s, leaving Charney Bassett as a rare, if not unique, representation of those times. You can take a virtual tour ride through the landscape!

Of particular interest to us here in Charney Bassett are the models that show Britain has made of Charlie's The Crossing and The Station, all in exquisite and almost unbelievable detail. The museum kindly lets us include images of these in our Charney Chatter. Visitors are encouraged to share their memories, experiences and to support the work that this local, independent museum does to preserve The Vale's history.

Pension Museum, Church Lane, Long Wittenham, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX14 4QS
https://www.pension-museum.co.uk/opening-times-prices

Charney Hall & Field Trust
Charney Bassett
Charney Hall, Charney Bassett
Oxfordshire, OX12 0EX

Agenda will be posted on the Village Website and CHFT Facebook Page
Tel: 01235 868 188
To apply for a booking please contact
secretary@chft.org

HANNEY WALKIE TALKIES walk on Thursday lunchtimes

If you are new to Hanney or the local villages and haven't had the opportunity to meet some of the local people, why not join the Hanney Walkie Talkies every May / School Road, Main Hanney (close to the school). We tend to walk locally for around 60 mins, chatting along the way. Our lunchtime walks were originally for people who were retired/semi-retired/ladies who lunch/mums who had left their campaign, get some fresh air in the countryside and catch up with friends. We also arrange several social events during the year and have been good fun!

If you would like to join us one of our walks but have a question, please contact us on Facebook groups or the West Hanney Community Page or just turn up on the day. Our walks are FREE. We do ask that you make a donation to updated but if you are entering to meet a newbie message a friend on Facebook to check we are walking.

Charney 100 Club Draw

The results of the December draw are:

1st Prize no 144 £130 Jenny Ed

2nd Prize no 20 £30 Jenny Dale

The results of the January draw are:

1st prize 225 no 63 Paul Bartlett

2nd prize 170 no 90 David Roberts

Congratulations to our winners!

Services in St Peter's Church

BCP HOLY COMMUNION – Sunday 8th February – 10.30 am

HOLY COMMUNION – Sunday 8th February – 10.30 am

HOLY COMMUNION – Sunday 15th February – 10.30 am

More details can be found on the Benefice website –
Home Page - Benefice of Cumnor - The Benefice of Chilworth with Gaddesden

Dates for the Diary

POP UP PUB – Friday 28th January, 7.15-10pm, Village Hall

SEW & SOCIAL SESSION (all welcome) – Thursday, 19th March, 10am-12pm, Village Hall

FIRST FRIDAYS COFFEE CARE & CHAT – Friday 6th February, 9 - 4.30pm, Village Hall

PARKINSON'S FIELD TRUST MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – Wednesday 11th February, 6.30 pm, Village Hall

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – Wednesday 11th March 7.30pm, Village Hall

DEADLINE FOR NEXT EDITION: 20th February 2026

Please send all items for inclusion to: charneychatter@gmail.com

Charney Chatter is now a quarterly bulletin on behalf of the Parish Council. Occasional news updates will be posted on the website and Facebook page. Please send any comments to charneychatter@gmail.com or charneybassettpc@gmail.com. Thank you.
Charney Chatter is produced by the Charney Bassett Parish Council and Charney Bassett Village Hall Committee.
Charlie Chalkpits Cottage photo courtesy of Charlie Chalkpits Cottage and Charlie Chalkpits Cottage Facebook Page.

Copyright © 2026 Charney Chatter, All rights reserved.
You are receiving this email because you opted in via our Charney Chatter Mailing List.
Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.
This email was built and is being sent using Mailchimp.
Get Mailchimp free when you start your own campaign.