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Charney Chatter

August 2024

THANK YOU, JOHN WRIGHT!!

Most residents well know that the Village Hall has been updated (https://charneybassett.org.uk/), but not so many will know how it is updated or by whom.

Since it was set up in around 2006, the website has been looked after by John Wright (in Barnfield). In recent times, he has been helped by Amanda Graham (also in Barnfield).

Now, after 15 years of service, John has decided to hang up the keyboard, so at the last Parish Council meeting he was presented with a little bottle of wine and a very tasty cake by Chairman David Roberts, as a thank you for the many hours he has spent helping to keep villagers informed of local affairs. In addition to being the Village Webmaster, John has also been known on occasions down to him, but full credit goes about with the help of others.

For the time being the website will be managed by Amanda, who is looking for volunteers with a willing set of fingers to help with updates. Don't be afraid to put your hand up, as it is a very rewarding role, and John will be more than happy have the requisite skills – this can also be a learning opportunity.

YARN FEST

A huge thank you to all those who knitted (crocheted, sewed, baked and generally helped with all the work involved in setting up and taking down the Yarn Fest) and those who came to see it. It was a fun day and we showcased the amazing talents of locals, with displays of all manner of yarn-based crafts. There were even wonderful spinning demonstrations by Sue from Charney on both afternoons. And in addition to the adult activities there were also the scarecrow wedding guests, waiting with the bride (jilted at the altar – sorry!)!!!

CHARNEY ARMY SOLDIERS ON

In early May, Charles Ott took over from Ian Taylor as the co-ordinator of the Charney Army Art Army volunteers were contacted and sent a questionnaire to complete, and there was a good response. Active members were invited to a meeting on June 6th to enable them to discuss the way forward and consider the draft work plan for the remainder of the year, to be approved by the Parish Council at its July meeting.

As a result of COVID restrictions, many individuals had taken responsibility for maintenance of areas close to their homes. The Parish Council has agreed with additional support from the Army as required. It was also agreed that the second and last Thursday in the month should be used to carry out the larger tasks, and that Friday 26th July would be the next work day. Responses to the questionnaire, and details were included in the work plan.

Some of the tasks have been Thursday working sessions with between one and five volunteers attending. The main activities at these sessions have been:

- clearing the war memorial on the Village Green in time for the D-Day anniversary; maintenance of the oak bench; and cutting back some vegetation which was growing over the pavement near the Chapel Lane lych-gate
- cutting back vegetation on the path from the playing field to the old school house and removing ivy on the footpath from the school to Buckland House and the rear of the Village map near the Church
- removal phase of the 'missing link' on the footpath from the school to Buckland Road

The next planned session on 25th July is intended to tackle the ivy growing on the stone wall to the Jubilee Orchard, opposite the Church.

Two new volunteers have been recruited since May, but more are always welcome. Please contact Charles Ott, Charney Army Co-ordinator, at charneyarmy@gmail.com if you wish to volunteer or have any comments to make.

CHARNEY BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council met in the Village Hall on 10th July 2024. Matters discussed included:

- County Councillors' report
- Planning applications:
  - Planning matters including:
    - Lyford Business Park (commercial buildings(parking etc) – update
    - Solar Farm, Manor Farm, Denchworth – decision
    - Storage barn, farm north-west Buckland Road – consultation
    - Solar Farm, Denchworth – consultation
    - Blenheim Field, and also Long Meadow Barn – land overdevelopment status update
- Royal Mail Sorting Office proposals – verbal update
- CCC Local Flood Risk Management Strategy – consultation
- Charney Army's future work
- Issues relating to CHART:
  - Draft Minutes of the Annual General Meeting and Committee Meeting – for approval
  - Amendment of Hall and Field Regulary documents – verbal update
  - Village Green social event - Sunday 4th August.

Agendas and minutes of meetings can be found online at www.charneybassett.org.uk, including the full draft of the minutes for the 10th July meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 11th September 2024 at 7.30pm.

Trevor Brown (Parish Clerk) can be contacted at clerk@parish@charneybassett.org.uk

JUBILEE ORCHARD

In last month's edition, mention was made of the fruit available in Jubilee Orchard. Mention should also have been made of the fact that the lime and bushes are kept in good shape. Many thanks to Hugh and Lynn Brookes – appropriately of Orchard Close!

CHARNEY HALL AND FIELD TRUST

Save the date!

SUMMER SOCIAL

Sunday 4th August - CHART Summer Social - 3-5pm
on the Village Green
Games, Bouncy Castle, Refreshments and more...
Follow the Charney Hall and Field Trust Facebook page for updates

(refreshments will be for sale - but cash only please)

CHAPT SUMMER SOCIAL - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR ACKEYSTEAD

Are you able to bake/provide cakes for this event (Sunday 4th August) or would you like to help on the day (between 2 and 5pm on the day) to help with serving cake? If you can help, or for more information, please contact Mary Cooke (or MBC) at email

THAMES WATER RESERVOIR CONSULTATION

The Site of Wither-Hone District Council (WHDHC) is encouraging residents to give their views on Thames Water's proposed reservoir near Abingdon.

The plan submitted by Thames Water, considered commissioned by many local authorities, is for a 'Strategic Water Storage Reservoir' (SWSR) to be constructed gravel pit by a Clanfield Airport at around 5.5 km(?) and WHDHC is urging the water providers to give serious consideration to alternative solutions.

Thames Water's public consultation ends on 28th August. You can submit your views at https://thames-water.co.uk/projectsreservoir/

RESTRICTED PARKING AT FORTNAY CAR PARK

Refurbishment works at Fortnaey car park in Wantage will mean limited parking from Monday 22nd July for up to 8 weeks. The reserve alternative car parks are Limborough Road or Mill Street. Click here for more information.

CONSULTATION ON NEW COUNCIL WARDS

The Local Government Boundary Commission would like to hear what communities in Oxfordshire think about proposals for new ward for the council wards in the Vale of White Horse. More information can be found here.

HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN

- FREE – For children aged 4 – 14 as at Oxfordshire Schools to discover reading for fun, and to improve reading skills and confidence. The Summer Reading Challenge runs from 6th July to 7th September – more details here
- Free Swim Passes For a set to reopen on Saturday 20th July. More information, including opening times, can be found here.
- An extensive list of more free and low cost activities available between 15th July and 31st August can be found here.

Don't worry about parking - use Charney's Wednesday Bus Service!

Charney has a regular bus service!
But as Oxfordshire County Council, the number 66 service runs only three Wednesdays. The 66 weeks bus has disabled access, and Bus Passes are accepted.

The bus leaves Charney bus shelter at 10.15am and returns from the Tesco Wantage. Only is cost the market and get some very fresh fish from Joe, and a huge variety of fruit and veg. You should even have time to have a cup of tea and a cake in the Tesco cafe before catching the bus back at 12.40pm, getting you home in just after one o'clock.
Please pay to, or we'll lose it!

DATINGS - WEST BANNEY - WANTAGE CIRCULAR SERVICE 66	
DEPARTURES ONLY	
	W
WANTAGE, Market Place	10.00
Grove, Tesco Store	10.05
Grove, Telephone Box	10.09
Charney Bassett, Bus Shelter	10.18
Lyford	10.23
Denchworth, Bus Shelter	10.29
Denchworth, near Bus Shelter	10.31
Grove, Millbrook Square	10.39
Wantage, Guildo Centre	10.43
WANTAGE, Market Place	10.49
	W
WANTAGE, Market Place	12.40
Grove, Tesco Store	12.45
Grove, Telephone Box	12.51
Denchworth, Bus Shelter	12.58
West Hanney, Bus Shelter	13.05
Lyford	13.11
Charney Bassett, Bus Shelter	13.17
Grove, Telephone Box	13.27
Grove, Tesco Store	13.31
WANTAGE, Market Place	13.35
NO SERVICE ON BANK HOLIDAYS	

CHERBURY CAMP – A BRIEF HISTORY

Cherbury Camp is an Iron Age fort, one mile north of Charney Bassett and within the current parish boundary. It public footpath from the village leads to the entrance to the fort, which is in the form of a long narrow ditch and bank. It is an impressive structure, with three ditches and embankments enclosing about 4 hectares. It is larger than the hill fort, Uffington Castle, on the Ridgeway.

The location may seem odd compared with the many hill forts, but it was strategically placed at the narrowest neck of land between the River Thames and the River Ock, and also protected by a stream and a marsh. Its current name is a corruption of the name of the middle Iron Age tribe, the Dobunni (from after 250 BC per W. Whitte 2012).

Legend has it that the local inhabitants of Uffington Castle came to raid Cherbury Camp, where King Cerwyn and his invading army were entrapped and slaughtered. Cerwyn's wife, Queen Cerwyn, escaped and fled on her horse to the Dance. As a result, they are said to have since haunted nearby fields, which took place at the crossroads half-way between Charney Bassett and Lyford, and the Dance, between Lyford and Denchworth. Unfortunately, she was grabbed at the last within the vicinity of the farm, around Charney, as a reward for his vigilance. True or otherwise as this local legend may be, the horn, known as the Fyadan Horn, is now housed in the Ashmole and Wilard Museum. A Pub in Charney was named 'The Horn'.

Another legend is that it was here, at a Danish encampment within the old fort, that King Alfred disguised himself as a beggar in minstrel so that he could enter the camp and learn of their plans.

An archaeological excavation, carried out in the late 1960s, revealed a cobbled entrance with a gateway defined by two large postholes. A geophysics survey undertaken in 2007 showing that there was only one entrance, on the eastern side. Finds included a Roman coin, a Roman brooch, Roman pottery and many pits, as well as the entrance road. Iron Age pottery and gold coins, an Early Medieval brooch, a Neolithic flint axe and Bronze Age arrowheads have been recovered from the site. Although the excavation suggested that the fortlet existed in the Iron Age, the nature of Early Iron Age occupation remains uncertain.

Share

There is much more that you can read about the camp here with references for further reading, and most importantly, if you have any more information and old photos that you can share, then please do get in touch via charney-history@hotmail.com.

FIRST FRIDAYS CCC

10.30 – 11.30 am
first Friday of the month
in Charney Bassett Village Hall,
starting on Friday 2nd August
All Welcome

Charney Bassett and Lyford Education Trust (CLET)

CLET supports a range of educational projects and activities, with grants awarded to individuals under the age of 25 and to community groups in the villages of Charney Bassett and Lyford.

The Trustees are willing to support children who may need additional tutoring to address educational gaps, which have arisen as a result of the pandemic.

Online applications are welcomed at any time and forms can be found on the Charney Bassett village website (see below), or contact the Clerk Ruth Clements for further details at clerk@clet.org.uk

Applications will be considered by the Trustees who meet in January May and September.

https://charneybassett.org.uk/our-villages/charney-bassett-lyford-educational-trust/

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Deadline For Next Issue

The deadline for contributions to next month's issue of Charney Chatter is the 25th August 2024.

Please email your entries to charnerybox@btopenworld.com

Dates for the Diary

SEW & SOCIAL SESSIONS (all welcome) – Thursdays, 10 am – Noon, Village Hall

CHART SUMMER SOCIAL – Sunday 4th August, 3– 5pm, Village Green

FIRST FRIDAY CCC – First Friday of the month, 10.30 – 11.30am

CHARNEY ARMY - Second and last Thursday of every month

CHARNEY BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL – Wednesday 11th September, 7.30pm, Village Hall

APPLE CELEBRATION – Saturday 12th October, 2 – 4.30pm. Teas, cakes, apple juicing and games! Further details nearer the time.

HARVEST SERVICE AND BRING & SHARE LUNCH – Sunday 13th October, St Peter's Church

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR – Saturday 30th November, 10am – Noon, Village Hall. Coffee, sale of crafts, cakes, preserves and other items.

Charney Chatter is a non-profit publication and is distributed free of charge to residents. Views expressed are solely the opinion of the editorial or other contributors. Contributors should be notified by Webmaster@charneybassett.org.uk by the 25th of each month. Charney Chatter reserves the right to edit submitted articles for clarity and to conform to space requirements.

Charney Chatter is produced by the Charney Bassett Parish Council.

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