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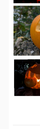
Charney Chatter
December 2024

In memory of a very special person

On Saturday 9th November, CHART planted a tree in Charney Field in memory of David Stabert and in gratitude for his years of service to CHART and to the village.

A large number of people gathered to listen to Lucy Gillentreeves pay a short tribute to David, and to watch while she planted a flowering cherry tree with David's daughter, Jill.



We would like to take the opportunity to thank CHART for their kind thought in planting the cherry tree in David's memory. It was nice to see so many people attending.

Thanks also to those who have supported and continue to support us, we have come a long way over the past 12 months.

Finally we are delighted to share the news that donations made to SHINE in David's memory totaled just over £1,000.

Kindest regards, Barbara and Jill

Halloween pumpkins gallore

A particularly spooky Ali Hallow's Eve brought out the creative side of some Charney residents!

Thank you to Chatterers past

A BIG THANK YOU to Amanda Graham and Steph Wright for their time and dedication in providing us all with so many informative and entertaining issues of the Charney Chatter over the last five years. The current team would like to thank Amanda and Steph for their kind words of encouragement in stepping on board to offer advice and support, and to help with any difficulties.

And thank you to our outgoing landlords

Ian and Jacqui Crayford have recently left The Chequers, taking over the reins at The Black Horse in East Hanney, so it's not too far to travel to catch up with them and indulge in their famous pies, posset and cheesecake! We wish them every success.

Nature Notes

Chris Gomersall RSPB Images

At this time of year, many are feeding birds in their garden to help them through the winter months. However, try to avoid some common feeding mistakes:

- Clean feeders weekly with a mild detergent and hot water (rinse thoroughly). Garden birds are declining due to the spread of disease.
- Provide a different range of foods for different species. Bread in small quantities is fine but provides little sustenance for birds and can cause malnutrition.
- Make sure water is available, and clean these containers regularly, too.
- Place feeders in a safe location, away from predators.
- Don't put out too much food and then allow it to become stale, especially in wet weather. Seed and fat balls do go mouldy.

Remember to place feeders in a safe place, away from predators. The domestic feline kills around 55 million birds and 200,000 bats in the UK each year. So, if you're lucky enough to own a cat, keep an eye on them!

Charney Bassett Parish Council

The Parish Council met on 13th November and items discussed included:

- Continuing development of the allotment site
- The Council budget for 2025-26
- The Chequers Public House
- Jubilee Orchard and Oak Green.

The minutes of the meeting can be found here.

The next Parish Council meeting is on 8th January 2025 in the Village Hall starting at 7.00 pm. Items to be discussed will include the Parish Council precept for 2025-26. Trevor Brown (Parish Clerk) can be contacted at parishclerk@charneybassett.org.uk

Charney Bassett Allotments

At the recent Parish Council meeting, Mike Gooding, Chair of Charney and District Allotments Society, gave a report on the progress of the allotments since May when the site had been fenced and made available for cultivation. Of the nine full-size plots, only one remains vacant and the four half-size plots have all been taken (including a children's patch).

The soil has proven to be of good quality and regular updates have appeared in past editions of the Charney Chatter, thanks to Steph Wright. A compost facility has been installed and CLAP is hopeful of obtaining free hedging plants from the Woodland Trust. Mike thanked CLAP for its support and encouragement and, in cooperation with CHART, on the common boundary with the playing field.

The main aim now is to provide a communal shed for plot holders (subject to any planning permission) and an application to the Lottery Fund is being prepared. A better water supply is planned together with a larger composting area. CLAP has already raised some funds, and the Parish Council may be asked to help with funding.

The site has become something of a focal point in the village, attracting interest from passers-by and visitors. Mike, Steph and others have spent many hours, but there doesn't appear to have been any conflict with users of the playing field.

Flooding

The road approaching Lyford, 25th November 2024

We have been warned to expect a very wet winter, so flooding similar to that experienced from recent heavy rains can be expected again (and hopefully nothing worse). It is worth considering signing up to flood alerts that are issued by the Environment Agency. You can elect to receive these by email or text messages, telephone calls, or Flood Alerts. Go to the Flood Alerts page on the Environment Agency And take care when driving – there's often water / information on local Facebook groups to alert you to which ways are passable, or to advise you to stay home with a cuppa if you can.

St Peter's Church – A Brief History

St Peter's Church, a Grade I listed building, is one of the oldest buildings in Charney and it is likely that a smaller, wooden chapel stood on the same site before it.

The Church is a peaceful place and still a functioning place of worship. We are lucky to have it and for it to be so well maintained and cared for by those who volunteer from the village.

It is a special place all year round and particularly at Christmas.

The Norman church which forms the basis of the present building, dates from the early 12th century. The porches and parts of the south wall of the nave are from that earlier building. The window in the south wall of the chancel dates from the late 13th century. The originals lancets inside the church is probably from the first half of the 12th century.

The church has gone through many cycles of neglect and restoration and some of this stems from its historical connections with the Benedictine Abbey in Abingdon and the dissolution of the Monasteries in 1538 by Henry VIII. After the it became a chapelry attached to Longworth, and is thought to have suffered long periods of neglect.

In 1829 the church had a major restoration as the Reading Mercury newspaper reported:

> *When the Rev. J. Whitehurst was appointed to the curacy … he found the building in the most dilapidated state, and the congregation small. With the greatest earnestness he at once set about the work of restoration, and until the ensuing Lady Day had begun there was nothing to indicate the existence of the "square"… some of the walling was knocked away, and the ivy, which had grown so luxuriantly, was completely cleared from the roof of the nave and aisle, re-pointing and walling new timbers, and entirely re-leading the roof. The chancel roof, which is entirely new, is of oak, and covered with stone slating. The new seats in the nave are of yellow pine, and will be stained, whilst those in the chancel and the reading desk are of oak, of new. The nave and chancel are paved with tiles, the latter being encaustic.*

There are many fascinating aspects to the church such as the many memorial tablets, the beautiful, stained glass, monumentons inscriptions to name just a few.

As ever, if you have any information or pictures to add to our knowledge and for inclusion on the Charney History website, please do get in touch at charneyhistory@btinternet.com.

Charney 100 Club Draw

The results of the November draw are:
£25 No 16 Sheila Terry
£10 No 71 Lynn Brooks
Kindly drawn by John and Maureen Lambert

Winter Edition

Hanney Grass Practice Patient Participation Group

JOINT NEWSLETTER Hanney & Lyford

Church Grass Practice Patient Participation Group

Dear Sir
Happy New Year to everyone and thanks to the Hanney & Lyford Village Trustees in case of such. Particular thanks to Jackie Hawkins who has kindly offered to do the page and do the distribution and delivery. Hanney Newsletter, Hanney

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If you have any comments or ideas we would love to hear from you, especially our younger members. Please contact the Practice Manager at Hanney.Practice@nhs.net

Kindest Regards
Hanney Grass Practice Manager
Hanney & Lyford PPG

Dear Editor,
Church Grass Practice PPG

You can download the current newsletter using the QR code below:

River Testers wanted

Free training dates:

- Saturday 11th January, 10am – 12pm
  Lekprime Recycle Village Hall OX12 9LJ
- Friday 17th January, 10.30am – 12.30pm
  One Planet Abingdon, OX14 3HG

For more info email Claire.Robertson@thamesw21.org.uk

Christmas waste and recycling

For all you need to know about waste collections over the Christmas and New Year period – including changes to collection dates, which bin you should put your Christmas rubbish in, what to do with your tree once the festivities are over and much more, please see our special Christmas waste page.

Dates for the Diary

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

FIRST FRIDAYS COFFEE CAKE & CHAT – Friday 6th December, 10.30 –11.30am, Village Hall

CAROLS ON THE GREEN – Wednesday, 18th December, 7pm, Village Green Mulled wine, sausage rolls & mince pies in tickle in the barn

FAMILY CAROLS & CRIB SERVICE – Tuesday 24th December, 4pm, St Peter's Church

CHRISTMAS DAY HOLY COMMUNION – Wednesday 25th December, 10am, St Peter's Church
Led by the Archdeacon Rev David Tyler

Wishing all our readers a very Merry Christmas & a happy, healthy New Year!

We don't publish a Charney Chatter in January, so the deadline for the next issue is 20th January 2025.

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

If there's something that crops up between issues that you would like the village to know about, please email the details to charneychatter@gmail.com & we can send out a special email.

Charney Chatter e-news is published on behalf of the Parish Council, with an edition every month apart from January. Occasional news updates may be sent to subscribers at the discretion of the editors. Contributions should be e-mailed to charneychatter@gmail.com by the 20th of each month. You can unsubscribe by e-mailing charneychatter@gmail.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

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