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Charney Chatter

October 2024

Shifford Carriage Driving moves to Charney Bassett

Shifford Carriage Driving (Rafting for the Disabled) Association has moved to Charney Bassett, and on a Wednesday you may see two horse-drawn carriages going round the village.

The Driving group was founded during the 1970s and eventually operated from a yard at Shifford Manor, with ponies hitched to two wheel carriages. The group then moved to Cote and acquired a four-wheel carriage that provided wheelchair access for participants. Following a change of circumstances earlier this year, the group moved its operations to Charney Bassett, where it is kindly being hosted by The Godfrey family.

Weather permitting, the group operates from April until October/November to provide carriage driving experiences for participants who have varying degrees of disability. Weekly activities include drives around routes that the Godfrey family have made on their farm, and short trips on the roads around the village. At present, 2 people from two ponies, Lady and Fred, and Olney Godfrey is training up Tommy Zoom to take over from Fred, who is now 23 years old.

Normally the two carriages will come out of the entrance to the Godfrey farm at around 10.45 am and turn left, travelling up Main Street past The Chequers, Charney Bassett C of E Primary School and The Old Rectory, then turn left back to the farm. We need two qualified carriage drivers and a minimum of five helpers to take the two carriages out on the road safely, and the helpers are all volunteers. For each drive with participants, one car travels in front of the carriage with a second car behind, both carrying a volunteer and a carer, and bicycle outriders also travel with the carriage to help control the traffic.

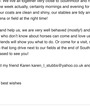
As group, we are very cheerful and friendly and would very much welcome new volunteers, even if you can only spare the occasional Wednesday. No experience is necessary, as training can be given. If you would like more information on becoming a volunteer or about the group in general, please contact: Olney Godfrey (Chair) on 01235 868400 or Mandy Hook (Secretary) on 01865 407510. They will be delighted to hear from you, and very pleased to answer any questions.

Below is a poem written by Nick, one of our participants:

Freddie whistles along taking us for a drive
Lady follows behind with her head held high
Then here comes Lady who has formed a new route
New home and friends
The sound of their hooves clip clopping along
The rumble of wheels as we travel along
My problems and disability
The turmoil of the world
Are forgotten for an hour and one game
So here we are carriage driving once a week in my happy place
A big thank you for all the volunteers
And all their efforts that keep it take place.

The Cucurbita Cometh!

We're entering the season of moles and mellow fruitfulness! and in particular courgettes, squash and pumpkins galore on the new allotments. What a great first season – actually only half a season – of growing it has been.



A variety of crops have thrived, including sweetcorn, tomatoes, potatoes, carrots, beans and so much more. In addition, there have been some lovely flowers flourishing, bringing a splash of colour to the site.

The allotment holders have really enjoyed everyone's support and the many chats over the fence.

A Message from Daisy

Hello everyone, my name is Daisy, and I live with my herd of ponies and horses. I was hoping to ask if you would have any time to come and help look after me? All of us in the herd have a really really important job to do, we have riders who are disabled.

Together with our human helper friends we help them with an endless list of good things: their physical balance and strength, stretching, emotional wellbeing, and sometimes just walking, as some of our riders's legs don't work as well as mine.

Most of all I love my riders! And they love me back and I do my very, very best to give them a great ride, that is fun but helps them get stronger and better too.

We can't do this though without our human helper friends as we need to keep everyone safe. We live all together very close to Southmoor and need help well most of the week actually, certainly mornings and evening for lessons and feeding and grooming. We love it when our stables are tidy and that we get to the right arena or field at the right time!

Please come and help us, we are very well behaved (mostly!) and even human helper friends who don't know about horses can come and love us because our other helper friends will show you what to do. Or come for a visit, see what goes on down that long drive next to our barn at the end of Southmoor. We will always be pleased to see you!

Please contact my friend Karen karen_1_studios@yahoo.co.uk and she will be in touch.

With love and best wishes

Daisy

Charney Shops and Post Offices – a brief history

There have been shops and Post Offices at various times in different houses in Charney. There are details of a few of them below.

Matilda ("Tilly") Godfrey's shop was in a cottage (Kimberley Cottage). This was the village Post Office (8am – 1pm and 4pm – 5pm) with a small shop and the first telephone kiosk against the wall, signposted from the road.

Mrs Roberts' shop was freely in the thatched cottage opposite the Green, with the room with the window facing the Green as the shop (the shutter hinges are still there), and then she moved with the shop to the cottage opposite the Methodist Chapel (now the Village Hall).

My Shifford Post Office. Shop. Telephone Box. Artwork by Lynne Tee, Colleen's Mustard

There was a 'pop hole' in The Horn Inn that sold sweets, tobacco and off sales of drinks.

Shortly after Mr and Mrs Charlie Browning moved from 32 New Road to Brook Cottage, Mrs Laura Browning started to sell sweets and tobacco. A few years later, when Tilly Godfrey died, Mrs Browning took over the Post Office and shop and eventually ... *we used to go for our sweets and fishing rods, which we'd if course not a single rod, line and hooks, and in those days we bought all the shopping from them!*

Postcard of 14 Charney (Brook Cottage) as the Post Office and Stores. Note the post box in the wall on the right John Luker ran the garage on the corner of Main Street and Lyford Road, and later added to it a village shop and a Post Office.

The Post Office and Stores at Brook Cottage c1950

More recently, until about 20 years ago, there was a part-time Post Office in the front room of 25 New Road (on Main Street).

There are many more to tell about the village here; 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@btinternet.com.

Charney Bassett Parish Council Update

The Parish Council met in the Village Hall on 17th September 2024 at the Village Hall. Matters discussed included:

- Reports by the County and District councillors
- Clerk's financial report
- Planning matters including:
  - Covered swimming pool, Minmere Barn, Buckland Road – consultation
  - Storage barn, farm north-west Buckland Road – decision
  - Goosey Wick Farmhouse extension – decision
  - New dwelling, Eastfield Farm, Gainfield – ongoing
  - Lyford Business park (commercial building/parking) – ongoing
  - Blenheim Field, and also Long Meadow Barn – building/pylae investigations
  - South Oxon/Vale Joint Local Plan – revised timetable
  - Approval (by Sec. of State) of Thames Water's Water Resources Management Plan
  - National Planning Policy Framework Amendment (National) consultation
- Publication of Police and Crime plan and consideration of a Parish Council lead
- Highway and safety matters to raise at October meeting with OCC Highways officers
- Approval of documents and agree membership of a Personnel Sub-Committee
- Report on 1st August meeting with trustees of Charney Manor (Cick Green/Lockes Orchard)
- Consider issues relating to CHART:
  - Draft Minutes of the Committee meeting of 24th June 2024
  - Amendment of Hall and Field Land Registry documents – verbal update

Agendas and minutes of meetings can be found on the website at www.charneybassett.org.uk including the full draft minutes of the 17th September meeting. The next meeting date is Wednesday 12th November 2024 at 7.30pm.

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

Charney Hall & Field Trust Management Committee Meeting

Monday 14th October
at 5.30pm in the Village Hall

An Agenda will be posted on the Village website by 7th October.
To ask a question please contact secretary@chart.org

Calling all apple owners & apple juice enthusiasts!

Please join us for **Charney Bassett Apple Day**
on Saturday 26th September
from 10am – 12noon

Bring your apples along to the barn on the Green to be juiced, for just 50p per bottle, 8 pm in with our apple games!

Either bring your own bottles, or buy bottles from us on the day

Bottles of apple juice will also be available for purchase

Coffees, teas and apple cake will be on sale

Charney 100 Club Draw

The results of the September draw are:
£25 No 63 Lucy Gilderslewves
£10 No 69 Jacqui Crayford

Kindly drawn by Bernetta and Maureen

Women's health services – tell us your views!

September 19, 2024

We would like to hear from all women and people who use women's health services.

Please tell us about your experiences of getting help for women's health issues, such as perimenopause, periods or cervical screening, as well as your experiences of health services more generally.

- What worked well and what could have been better?
- Is there anything that makes it difficult to get the help you need?
- What would you have for how health and care services could be better for women and people who use women's health services?

Please have your say by completing our short, anonymous survey

We will use what you tell us to help shape support and to improve services.

The survey will be open until **31st October**.

If you would like a paper copy of our survey, or would like it in another format or language, please contact us by emailing **Vale.Resilient@nhs.net** or contact us on **01865 329512** or **hello@healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk**.

Dates for the Diary

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

APPLE DAY – Saturday 26th September, 10.30am; 8am on the Village Green Teas, cake, apple juicing and apple games!

FIRST FRIDAYS COFFEE CAKE & CHAT – Friday 4th October, 10.20am, Village Hall

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

CHART MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – Monday 14th October, 6.30pm, Village Hall

CHARNEY BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL – Wednesday 12th November, 7.30pm, Village Hall

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

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE 20th October 2024

Please send items for inclusion to: charney.history@btinternet.com

Charney Chatter is a quarterly bulletin on behalf of the Parish Council. Occasional news updates may be sent to subscribers at the discretion of the editors. Contributions should be e-mailed to:

charney.history@btinternet.com by the 20th of each month. You can unsubscribe by e-mailing charney@mailchimp.com. Reminders and e-mail facilities can be in a text copy if by request.

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