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**Charney Chatter**  
April 2025

**Charney Mill**

As in previous years, Charney's very own Water Mill will be open to view on National Mills Opening Weekend, on Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th May. The mill's workings have been lovingly restored by the former Vale of White Horse Industrial Archaeology Group and if you haven't seen inside the building, it is well worth a visit. If you have been before, then please come again – it's worth another visit.

Opening times will be confirmed in May's Charney Chatter but are likely to be during the afternoons of the Saturday and Sunday.

The building (Grade 2 listed) is leased by the Parish Council. If you are interested in helping to look after it, please contact Steve Champion in Mill Cottage ([Millcottage.cb@btinternet.com](mailto:Millcottage.cb@btinternet.com)).



**Great British Spring Clean**

The Parish Council are keen that the village should take part in the Great British Spring Clean event and have approved plans for the Charney Army to litter pick the verges of the four roads from the village to the parish boundaries. All the necessary equipment has been booked from Vale of White Horse for the weekend of 5th/6th April and a minimum of two volunteers are needed for each road – Denchworth Road, Buckland Road, Longworth Road and Lyford Road. You don't have to be a member of Charney Army to volunteer for this event. Therefore, please let [Charles Eld](#) know as soon as possible if you would like to be involved so that he can formulate a plan.

**Charney Bassett Parish Council**

The Parish Council met in the Village Hall on Wednesday 12th March 2025. Matters discussed included:

- County Councillor's and District Councillor's report
- Planning matters
- Report on outcomes of meetings:
  - Charney Army on 8th March
  - Communications Group on 10th February
  - History Group on 26th February
- VE Day 8th May – Chairman's report
- Aims and Objectives for 2025-26
- Issues relating to CHAFT

Agendas and minutes of meetings can be found online at [www.charneybassett.org.uk](http://www.charneybassett.org.uk) including the full draft minutes of the 12th March meeting. The next Parish Council meeting is due to be held on Wednesday 14th May in the Village Hall at the earlier time of 7.00pm, followed by the Annual Parish Assembly.

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

Your councillors' information can be found at [www.charneybassett.org.uk/council-parish-parish-council/](http://www.charneybassett.org.uk/council-parish-parish-council/)

**Scams Awareness**

Anyone can fall victim to a scam. Learn how to spot a scam and what steps you can take to protect yourself. A guest speaker from Age UK Oxfordshire will be giving a Scam Awareness talk at Charney Bassett's Annual Village Assembly on 14th May 2025.

**CHAFT and St Peter's Church invite you to a**

**Charney Community Fun Afternoon**

**Saturday 7th June**

**Barbeque, teas, raffle, entertainment and stalls.**

Following our appeal for volunteers to help organise a fête, we have received a couple of kind offers of help but not enough to run the traditional village fête this year. Instead, we are putting on this community event - all the fun of the fête, but on a smaller scale!

**Come along and join in - let's celebrate being community together**

For further information and offers of help, please contact Eve or Lucy on [charneyfete@gmail.com](mailto:charneyfete@gmail.com)

**Charney 100 Club Draw**

The results of the March draw are:  
£25 No 79 – Kelly Lea  
£10 No 153 – Debs Little  
Congratulations to our winners!

**Important reminder for 100 Club members**

Please note that **subscriptions for the April 2025 to March 2026 draws were due by the end of March**. There are still a few payments outstanding. If you pay by bank standing order, you may wish to double check that your subscription has been paid. If there is anyone who pays their subscription in cash and we haven't managed to see you yet, Jo Garner or Evelyn Campbell will try and reach you asap. Please email [charney100club@gmail.com](mailto:charney100club@gmail.com) if you have any queries or need to check the bank details.

Finally, there are still a few numbers available if anyone would like to join the 100 club or buy extra numbers – just let us know on the above email address. All funds raised go towards supporting the maintenance of the playing field and the Village Hall.

**CHARNEY HALL & FIELD TRUST  
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Wednesday 23rd April  
at 6.30pm in the Village Hall

Agenda will be posted on the Village Website and CHAFT Facebook Page by 17th April

To ask a question please contact [secretary@chalt.org](mailto:secretary@chalt.org)

**A Brief History – Charney Reading Room and Evening School**

There was a Reading Room in Charney Bassett (now Milkwood Cottage), opposite the Methodist Chapel (now the Village Hall).



The first reference to a reading room (which we assume is the same one) that we have found is in the Longworth Parish Magazine January 1906: *'This winter has seen the starting of two useful institutions in the village. One is the Evening School, which owes its existence to the energy of Mrs Atkinson; the other is the Reading Room, the opening of which is largely due to the kindness of Mr and Mrs Pusey. Although these two institutions, which have made good progress up to the present, are in no way connected with the Church, we may be allowed to express the hope that they will continue prosper and have a beneficial influence upon the village at large.'*

The growth of mass literacy instigated a working-class desire for books and in many newly created village reading rooms, this was satisfied by small lending libraries. They were often founded by local landowners or vicars. The foundation of reading rooms was an extensive national phenomenon during the second half of the nineteenth century, continuing into the twentieth century, to stem the decline of the rural population; the original intention was also bound up with contemporary attitudes to philanthropy, recreation and self-help. One aspect of this was not only to fill a gap in the provision of alcohol-free recreation, but also to provide educational materials unobtainable elsewhere. Members had to pay a subscription.

*May 1907: Reading Room. – The room was closed for the season on Saturday, March 30th. A hearty vote of thanks was passed for the use of the room, and for the newspapers kindly given by Mrs Bouverie-Pusey. The accounts are as follows: – Received – Members' subscriptions £2 12s 8d, advanced for members who have not paid 2s 10d, donations 9s, total £2 12s 6d. Paid – Wages £1 4s, 17cwt's coal 19s 3d, 6galls oil 4s 6d, faggots 2s 3d, box for subscriptions 2s, sundries 6d; total £2 12s 6d.*

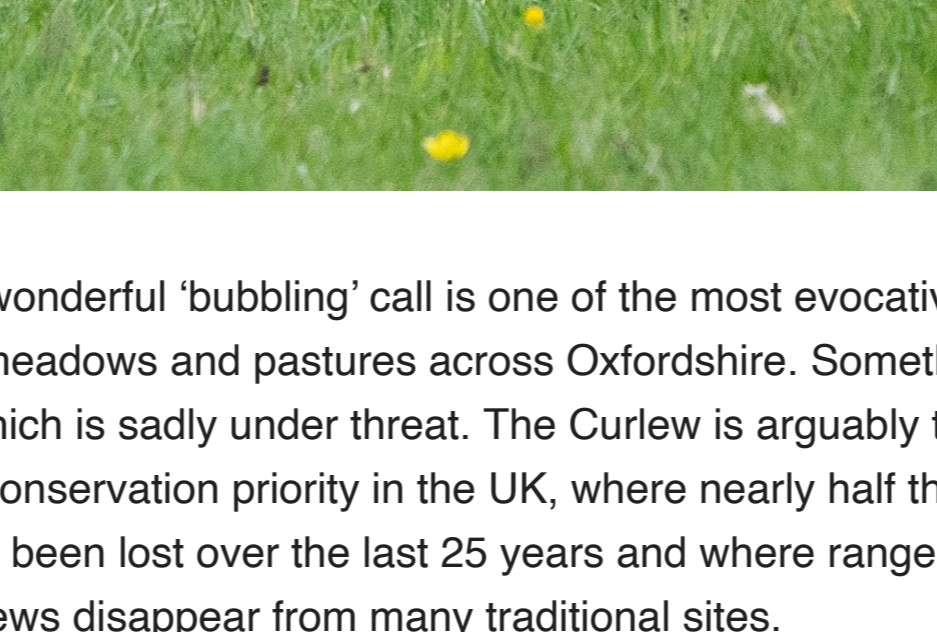
You can [read more here](#) and as ever, if you have any information or pictures for inclusion on the [Charney History website](#), please do get in touch at [charneyhistory@btinternet.com](mailto:charneyhistory@btinternet.com).

**Digs in 2025**

We are planning to carry out a number of 1 m<sup>2</sup> test pit digs in 2025 over the weekend of 21st -22nd June. More information on how to get involved will be provided nearer the time.

**First Fridays CCC**

By request of our regulars, please note the new - afternoon - time for First Fridays CCC. There will, of course, be teas available as well as coffee!



**3.00 - 4.00 pm**  
in Charney Bassett Village Hall  
on the first Friday of each month  
(except January)  
*All welcome*

**Services in St Peter's Church**



**MOTHERING SUNDAY Family Service**  
Sunday 30th March – 10.30am

**BCP HOLY COMMUNION**  
Sunday 6th April – 9am

**AN HOUR BEFORE THE CROSS**  
Good Friday, 18th April – 12pm

**FAMILY EASTER COMMUNION**  
Easter Sunday 20th April – 10.30am

You may also wish to go to **St Mary's Church in Lyford** on Maundy Thursday, 17th April, at 7pm for AGAPE AND EUCHARIST OF THE LAST SUPPER

**Wild Oxfordshire**

**April News – Curlew**



The Curlew's wonderful 'bubbling' call is one of the most evocative sounds of springtime in meadows and pastures across Oxfordshire. Something we cherish, but which is sadly under threat. The Curlew is arguably the most pressing bird conservation priority in the UK, where nearly half the breeding population has been lost over the last 25 years and where range contraction has seen Curlews disappear from many traditional sites.

Watch our 'Curlew River' film which explores the work of farmers and volunteers to help our wonderful Curlews as well as highlighting the fabulous ancient meadows and wet grassland habitats that they inhabit in our area. <https://www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk/projects/curlew>

*Mike Pollard, Wild Oxfordshire Curlew Recovery Project*  
<https://www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk/>

**Victory and liberation in Europe, 1945: Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum launches new exhibition: From Conflict to Peace: Celebrating VE & VJ Day**

Marking the 80th anniversaries of Victory in Europe and Victory of Japan Day, as well as those of many other key events from the final stages of the Second World War, Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum (SOFO) is launching a brand-new exhibition. From Conflict to Peace: Celebrating VE and VJ Day will go on display from Tuesday 1st April to Tuesday 18th November 2025. The exhibition will cover the celebrations across the county itself, but also the experiences of Oxfordshire people serving in the armed forces throughout 1945, and for many, beyond the end of the war.

The new exhibition focuses on personal accounts of the people who were there, both soldiers and civilians. It will also be supported by a Myfanwy Lloyd of themed events at the museum, opening with a free talk by Dr Myfanwy Lloyd on the liberation of Bergen-Belsen on Saturday 12th April, ahead of the 80th anniversary. Dr Lloyd's research, making contact with the families of a British soldier and a survivor of the camp, resulted in a new permanent display at SOFO Museum. Another talk, with local academic Anthony Glee, takes place on 17th April at 7pm, concerning the occupation of the island of Alderney during the war, and the Nazi war crimes perpetrated there that went unpunished. Professor Glee's was an advisor to Margaret Thatcher's War Crimes Inquiry, 1989-91.

On Saturday 10th May, Woodstock will celebrate the 80th anniversary of VE Day with a special event in the town's Market Square, featuring live 1940s music, living history displays, food and drink from local businesses, and fun for all ages from 4pm - 8pm. On the same day, the museum will host Lt. Col. (Retd) Mike Tickner for his talk Savage Wars of Peace, from 2pm. The talk will provide insight into the situation in eastern Asia following VJ Day and the Japanese surrender, as many nations saw an opportunity for independence, and Gurkha, Indian and British troops became responsible for restoring colonial rule in the region.

The new exhibition and accompanying events programme will offer visitors a chance to discover the part Oxfordshire and its people played in achieving victory and liberation in Europe and in East Asia, 80 years on.

For more details, please visit the museum's website at [Soldiers.of.Oxfordshire.Museum](http://Soldiers.of.Oxfordshire.Museum) – [Conflict & County](#).

**Health & Wellbeing Event**

Keeping Well in 2025 and Beyond  
**Saturday 26th April 2025**  
**at The Beacon 12 - 4pm**

Come and join us to find out more about what exciting activities are available in and around the area to enable you to enjoy a healthier and more fulfilled lifestyle.

There will be informative talks and demonstrations from local groups and health care professionals.

For more details, see our website <https://wellbeing.ox12.org/>

**Oxfordshire County Council – sign up for updates**

Oxfordshire County Council send out regular updates about initiatives and campaigns that may be of interest to local communities. Current campaigns include the Bikeability training programme for children, Healthy Start, special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) support for parent and carers, Winter Warmth and Cost of living support. If you would like to receive this update, please complete the [sign up form](#).

**Dates for the Diary**

- SEW & SOCIAL SESSIONS (all welcome) – Thursdays, 10 am – Noon, Village Hall
- FIRST FRIDAYS COFFEE CAKE & CHAT – Friday 4th April, 3 – 4 pm, Village Hall
- GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN LITTER PICKING AROUND THE VILLAGE – Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th April, times to be confirmed
- CHARNEY HALL & FIELD TRUST Management Committee - Wednesday 23rd April, 6.30pm, Village Hall



**DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 22nd April 2025**  
Please send all items for inclusion to: [charneychatter@gmail.com](mailto:charneychatter@gmail.com)  
Occasional news updates may be sent to subscribers at the discretion of the editors. Contributions should be e-mailed to [charneychatter@gmail.com](mailto:charneychatter@gmail.com) by the 20th of each month (slightly later in April, because of Easter!). You can unsubscribe by e-mailing [charneychatter@gmail.com](mailto: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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