View this email in your browser

Charney Chatter

August 2025

Village Feast a huge success!

Numerous villagers made their way to the Village Green on 29th June to join together and enjoy a centralised feast!

Thanks to the efforts of Charlie Bassett-Jones and their family for organising the event and providing such delicious food. At the service of one resident, "Great food and great company!"

Next year's Feast is already being planned – save the date Saturday 27th June 2026!

Proud moment for the Shifford Driving Group (PDG)

Tuesday at the Shifford Carriage Driving Group (PDG) was delighted to attend the Rolling for the Disabled National Championships at Hartpury in Gloucestershire, to collect the 'Equine of the Year 2025' Award on behalf of the group's pony, Lady.

Lady was accompanied by British Event Rider and Olympian, Jane Tomlinson-Meadows CVO OBE.

Lady has worked with the group for over 18 years, providing therapeutic carriage rides for disabled adults on country lanes, village roads, and hard to round yellow line pentathlons. You may have seen her going round the village on 16th July proudly wearing her sash.

Charney Bassett Parish Council

The Parish Council met in the Village Hall on 8th July 2025. There were five members of the public in attendance. Matters discussed included:

- County Councillors report
- Clerk's financial report
- Planning Applications/Decisions:
  - Eastfield Farm, Eastfield – amended plan
  - Solar Farm, Manor Farm, Denchworth – appeal decision
  - Lyford Business Park – on going
  - Lyford Farm – on going
  - Long Meadow Barn – decision
- Consideration of vacancies to fill Councillor vacancy
- Amendment to Remembrance Day protocol
- Consultation on Local Plan Review
- To consider commenting on County/District proposals for unitary local government
- Consider grant requested for funding to redecorate the bus shelter
- Feedback on visit by Charlie Maynard MP on 30th May
- Consider issues relating to CHAFT:
  - Draft Minutes of the Annual General Meeting and Committee meeting held 23rd April
  - Feedback on Hartpury the proposed MOU between CHAFT and the Parish Council.

Agendas and minutes of meetings can be found online at www.charneybassett.co.uk, including the full draft minutes of the 8th July meeting. The next meeting date is Wednesday 10th September 2025 at 7.30pm.

Yours Sincerely

Helen Brown (Parish Clerk) can be contacted on 07966 500 650 or clerk@charneybassett.co.uk

Parish councillors' information can be found at www.charneybassett.co.uk/council-parish/parish-council/

Oxford Temporary Congestion Charge – Consultation ends 3rd August

Oxfordshire County Council is proposing a temporary congestion charge, starting this autumn until Bishop Road reopens in autumn 2026. Cars without a permit would pay £2 to drive through Botley, with exemptions and discounts on Oxford city roads. This **consultation closes on 3rd August**, so, if you're reading this early enough, you still have time to share your views with the County Council. More information and access to the survey can be found here.

'Fully/Street Super Users' needed

Oxfordshire County Council's Transport Strategy Commitments and want to see something done more quickly to get them fixed? Our County Councillor, Lee Evans, is keen to see more residents volunteer to become **Fully/Street Super Users** to help identify, log and raise orders for these kinds of defects to be prioritised by council contractors. Training and equipment used to identifying defects is provided, and it's a great way to contribute to your local community. The Parish Council would be very supportive of anyone wishing to volunteer. If interested, please contact the Parish Clerk.

New Parish Councillor

The Parish Council was delighted to welcome Tracey Burgin to her first meeting as a Parish Councillor. Tracey and her family have lived in the village for many years before relocating down recently. Tracey has been in the nursing sector over 30 years and many will already know her, but if you don't, a photograph and contact details for her can be found on the Councillors page of the Village website, along with details of the other Councillors.

Neighbourhood Watch

Sometime ago the village now part of Neighbourhood Watch feel we had a Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator for our village. We are now wondering if there is a local resident who would be prepared to take on this role. We're fortunate to be in a village where people do look out for each other, but it is not a bad idea to have someone who is the contact point for the Police and liaise with our Thames Valley Police. If anyone is interested in taking on the role, please contact the Parish Clerk.

Charlie Maynard MP

Last month we reported on a visit to Charney by our MP (Charlie Maynard – Witney) and just to prove it happened, we now have a photo of the event taken in the Solar at Charney Manor. Pictured (left to right) are Harry Bowler (Project Manager, Charney Manor), Charlie Maynard, Cllr Lee Evans (Oxfordshire County Councillor), Charlie Bassett-Jones (Parish Clerk), David Roberts (Parish Council Chair), and Trevor Brown (Parish Clerk).

Can you help with work to reclaim a lost footpath?

The Lost Paths Group has been investigating whether there is sufficient evidence to ask Oxfordshire County Council to add the path from Chalkey Camp to Bushy Cottages to the Definitive Footpaths Map.

The path is shown on many historic maps, and two statements have been taken from people who remember using the path for many years before the closure around the turn of the century. It would be a great help if any residents who remember using the path could contact the Lost Paths Group. The number we already have and strengthening our case. If upheld again, the path would provide a much needed circular walk from Charney and back. Please get in touch with the Parish Clerk or Paul Wilcockson if you think you might be able to help.

The entrance to the path – July 2025

Charney History

New Dig Dates: 6th – 7th September 2025

Having had to postpone the dig in June due to the high temperatures, I am pleased to inform you that the dig will now take place on the 6th and 7th September 2025. There are just over seven weeks to go, so now is a date to mark now and to sharpen those trowels. We have three sites agreed for excavation, and I will be in touch with the landowners shortly. The aim is given a fence to aim to dig over the weekend. This is not to say that no more can be dig. No doubt we will find exciting things and expand our knowledge of the history of Charney.

We will be supervised by Dr David Kenny who, as ever, will guide us, provide expertise and ensure we do things the right way and keep us safe. This is a really good opportunity to learn about the archaeological procedures and skills.

There are lots of activities to choose from – digging, trowelling, sifting and looking for finds, identifying objects, making records, drawing, photographing and, of course, chatting, catching up and learning more about our village.

Please confirm (when you are coming and what you would particularly like to do) via info@charney. Many thanks!

Ian Graham

A Brief History – The Village Cross

The Village Cross, made of limestone, was possibly erected by Ringston Manor, Charney Manor, or by the Abbey of Abingdon. Before the dig began, it was likely to have been originally erected as a market cross around which goods were sold at annual fairs.

Originally, the shaft stood on three steps. Later a sundial was added to the top and, in the 20th century, it was further altered when a war memorial was added to the top of the sundial. Unfortunately, the cross was in a very poor state and needing to be sent local stone. Charney Bassett lime mortar would have been about two minutes behind Greenwich Mean Time. The railways moved to have a standard time so that trains could arrive and depart operate. A royal decree in 1880 finally established GMT across the country.

As ever, if you have any information or pictures for inclusion on the Charney History website, please do get in touch at charney.history@btinternet.com

Charney 100 Club Draw

The results of the July draw are:

£25 No 8 – Olney Godfrey
£15 No 140 – Mary & John Dangerfield

Congratulations to our winners!

There are still a few numbers available if anyone would like to join the 100 club. Annual subscription – just let us know or phone Michael Brown on 01865 369 ... funds raised go towards supporting the maintenance of the playing field and the Village Hall.

CHARNEY HALL AND FIELD TRUST (CHAFT) MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday 10th August at **6.30 pm** in the **Village Hall**

The Agenda will be posted on the village website by 6th August

If you wish to ask a question, please email secretary@chaft.org

New art exhibition inspired by story of Oxfordshire soldier's act of kindness to Holocaust survivor

From Saturday 6th to Saturday 20th August 2025, Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum in Woodstock will host an exhibition of artwork inspired by the true-life local artists and inspired by the story of a simple act of kindness during the liberation of the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in April 1945.

The Oxfordshire Hussars were among the first troops to enter the Bergen-Belsen camp when it was handed over to British forces. Just ordinary soldiers, they were confronted with a scene of horror: 60,000 starving men, women and young while typhus was spreading rapidly, made worse by overall conditions, poor sanitation and lack of clean water, as well as around 10,000 unburied bodies.

Amid efforts to relieve the survivors, control the spread of disease, and arrest the perpetrators, one Oxfordshire Hussars trooper, Lance-Corporal Kenneth Nairn-Warren, a British Jew, was desperate to contact her surviving family, having already lost many while held at Auschwitz-Birkenau, and approached the Hussars to help. Oxfordshire Norman Arthur Tyler came forward to offer help.

Lance-Corporal Nairn-Warren asked Tyler if he would write to his family. Tyler began writing letters to her uncle and sister living in Houston, Texas, and received a response from her family, who had survived with their lives, only arriving safely and rebuilding her life in the USA.

Inspired by this story of a flight of hope in a time of darkness, the work on display explores the themes of whitewashing, rootless, vacant and painful.

You can read more about the exhibition at Life Lines – Inspired by an Act of Kindness: Beauty & Arthur – Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum

Naomi Kaplan Arthur Tyler

Wild Oxfordshire

August News – Share your wildlife sightings! The value of contributing wildlife records – please help

Everyone can play a part in the substantially wildlife observations to local Environmental Records Centres. This is so that they appear on the 'official record' that is conducted by planning authorities and used by other parties to inform their decision-making processes.

As well as the value of the data submitted, keeping a personal record of what you see on your walks and in your gardens adds extra interest and depth to the experience, and can help you to improve your identification skills.

Snake-head Fritillary, Sophie Cunningham, Wild Oxfordshire

How: using iRecord

A great way of easily logging records is via the iRecord website or app, from which Records Centres – like our Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (TVERC) – can extract data.

Local groups or guidelines can provide focus to their efforts by setting up an 'Activity' within iRecord, whereby all records submitted by participants within a specified geographical area, or of a specified species or habitat, can be extracted to form an easily accessible overview of what has been and is being recorded, including a species list.

You can, or should, submit iRecord observations from beyond the activity area, and historic observations (as long as you still have the relevant information) can be submitted, provided the information is accurate. If there is interested in contributing to this effort, or perhaps already keep records of observations but has not shared them, consider their own iRecord account and joining the local Activity. The Activity for Charney is: http://www.inaturalist.org/projects/charney-and-the-surrounding-area. If you are not sure what to do, or have questions, please contact the Wild Oxfordshire team, who can support of submitting records. Because of causing any damage!) and even in the hedge, iRecord uses a system of checkers to assess records, so that the risk of erroneous records getting on the official record is minimised. Records are then passed on to the relevant Records Centre.

Once you have an account, you can find your group's Activity by searching Activities and the name of your group or parish. If it is a 'member-only' Activity, your application to join will need to be approved by the group's administrators before you can access the activity.

Other methods of submitting observations

If you are unable to use iRecord, you can record your observations in a field notebook or on a spreadsheet, including the following: Date; Place; Species (or certain key pieces of information: species name, name of observer, location name (provide the name of the site, ideally using one that is recognisable from the OS map, or a grid reference); Number of individuals observed; Sex (if can be visible to others); grid reference, and date of observation.

If you have multiple observations to report, you will need to upload the records in a spreadsheet. In this case, please provide the information either in a spreadsheet format with headings as described above, or otherwise such that it is clear what each piece of information is. Please contact the TVERC for a spreadsheet template here. You can find more information on how to submit your records, including links to video guides, on the TVERC website.

How your records will be used

Your records will first be validated (checked for location errors) and verified (checked for species identification errors) before being entered into the TVERC database. This will ensure that the data passed on to decision-makers is as accurate and reliable as possible. The data will then be made available to Authorities in Oxfordshire and Berkshire, the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust, and the Environment Agency. They are also provided through data requests to other local groups, consultants, ecological consultancies and researchers. The information is used:

- by planning authorities and developers to make informed decisions on the design and location of sustainable development
- to help farmers, landowners and conservation organisations manage land in the best way to enhance biodiversity
- by nature partnerships to direct wildlife conservation work.
- by teachers, students and scientists for education and scientific research

The database currently holds over 3 million records, including over 1.5 million records of Protected and Notable species – those that should be taken into account in planning applications. The vast majority of records in the TVERC database are contributed by the public. Without your records, we cannot give how vital your efforts are. So please, make your nature spotting count and submit your records to TVERC!

Joanna Hogan, TVERC Biological Recording Co-ordinator
joanna.hogan@oxfordshire.gov.uk
https://www.tverc.org/

Thank you so much for all you have done for nature's recovery in the last year. Together we have brought people together, created more spaces for nature, and inspired more people to act for nature. Many people contribute to Wild Oxfordshire's work through volunteering, donations, or simply by sharing news and spotting opportunities for the benefit of all. If you would like to be more active, or able to, we would greatly appreciate a contribution towards our work, either through a one-off donation, or a monthly contribution. Check out our website to find out more about the many ways you can support us and our recent achievements.

Services in St Peter's Church

BENEFICE BCP HOLY COMMUNION – Sunday 24th August – 10.30am

GOOD FLAT – STORY & WONDER Sunday 31st August – 10.30am

More details can be found on the Benefice website at Whats On - Services and Events - The Benefice of Chalkey with Gaulter

Dates for the Diary

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

CHARNEY HALL & FIELD TRUST MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – Wednesday 10th August, 6.30 pm, Village Hall

ARCHAEOLOGY DIG DATES: 6th – 7th September
For more details, please email charney.history@btinternet.com

FIRST FRIDAYS COFFEE CARE & CHAT – Friday 5th September, 3 – 4 pm, Village Hall

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – Wednesday 10th September 7.30pm

Copyright © 2025 Charney Chatter, All rights reserved.
You are receiving this email because you subscribed to the Charney Chatter. Village mailing list.

Manage your preferences | Unsubscribe
This email was sent to info@charney.org.uk
Powered by Mailchimp