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Charney Chatter

December 2025

St Peter's Church

Saturday 6th December

10.00 - 12.00

at

Charney Bassett Village Hall

Come and join us for coffee, delicious cakes and produce, Christmas shopping and raffle!

Charney Bassett Parish Council

The Parish Council met on 12th November and amongst the items discussed were:

- Appointment of a replacement Councillor
- Appointment of Vice Chairman
- Proposed alterations to Pinewoods Road junction with A420
- Preliminary CIL for Dissection Reservoir
- Proposed Tree Preservation Order at Lyford Bridge
- New Village website
- Charney Mill Fire Risk Assessment

County Councillor Lee Evans was also in attendance and is continuing to work on behalf of the village on a number of issues including the installation of white lines on the bend on the road from Charney Bassett to Lyford Bridge, and improvements to the nearby junction with the A420.

Agendas and minutes of meetings can be found online at www.charneybassett.org.uk

The next meeting of the Parish Council is on Wednesday 14th January 2026 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. (Please note, this meeting was previously incorrectly advertised as taking place on 7th January) but the date has been changed – the 14th is the correct date. Members of the public are welcomed to attend.

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

New Parish Councillor

The Village has a new Parish Councillor – Mark Redwood of Blackthorn Farm.

Mark succeeds Evelyn Campbell and has been appointed under the Casual Vacancy process (i.e. a vacancy arising between elections). Mark joins our other four Councillors (David Roberts, Mary Castle, Kay Adamson and Tracey Burgess) and brings the Parish Council up to full strength.

Details of all Parish Councillors are on the Councillor Page of the Village Website.

Sad Sittings

Charney Bassett has sadly lost two stalwarts of the village, with the recent deaths of John English and Tony Wates.

John English

John English was a very active participant in village life. He was the Leader of Charney Arms for several years, and always willing to help out at social events. It's entirely through John's efforts that we have a line of trees on the far side of the Village Hall car park, which he planted with his son Ian many years ago after their passing. He was also very involved with St Peter's Church. John will be dearly missed.

John's funeral will take place at 1pm on Wednesday 24th November in St Peter's Church, Charney Bassett. Afterwards there will be light refreshments at the Black Horse in East Hanney.

Tony Wates

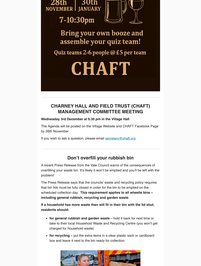
Many people in and around Charney will have known Tony Wates prior to his move to Stoke-on-Trent a few years ago. He was a familiar sight hacking around the local lanes on his horse, and was a regular at the Black Horse in East Hanney and Charney Arms for quite a while. He was also very active in social events and the church. Tony will be sadly missed.

His widow, Sue has confirmed that Tony's funeral will take place at midday on Thursday 4th December at St John the Baptist Church, Kingston Bagpuize. Afterwards there will be a celebration of Tony's life in the function room above the restaurant. Anyone who knew Tony is welcome to attend.

Charney Arms pop up pub returns to the Village Hall!

Following the success of our first night in October, the pub returns to stand on **Friday 28th November from 7pm**. You will need to bring your own booze but we will provide a quiz, nibbles and a fantastic atmosphere. Tickets are £5 per head, sign up to bring some cash and a team name! Pop in or join us for the evening – we expect this to be popular again, so as space is limited we are suggesting an adults only event!

Any queries please message Jacquie Hamilton via Facebook.



CHARNEY HALL AND FIELD TRUST (CHAFT) MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday 3rd December at 6.45 pm in the Village Hall

The Agenda will be posted on the Village Website and CHAFT Facebook Page by 26th November

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

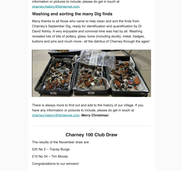
Don't overfill your rubbish bin

A recent Press Release from the Vale Council warns of the consequences of overfilling your waste bin. It's likely it won't be emptied and you'll be left with the problem!

The Press Release says that the councils' waste and recycling policy requires that bins should be no more than 80% full at the time of the next scheduled collection day. **This requirement applies to all wheelie bins – including general rubbish, recycling and garden waste.**

If a household has more waste than will fit in their bin with the lid shut, residents should:

- **for general rubbish and garden waste** – hold it back for next time or take to their local Household Waste and Recycling Centre (you won't get charged for the extra capacity)
- **for recycling** – put the extra items in a clear plastic sack or cardboard box and leave it next to the bin ready for collection



Charney Past – A Brief History

Getting ready for Christmas

Planning and asking for Christmas is nothing new to **The Slate Club** Ammonites.

The Slate Club was a group of people who saved money in a common fund for Christmas. For example, from 4 February, all the contribution paid for 10CWT-3 green hams.

You can see more on the Charney Historic Slate Club Web Page. There is always more to find out and add to the history of our village. If you have any information or pictures to include please get in touch at charney.history@bernerset.com

Washing and sorting the many Dig Ends

Many thanks to all those who came to help clean and sort the finds from Charney Dissection Dig. Thanks to Oxfordshire Archaeology and Charney Parish Council. A very enjoyable and convivial time was had by all. Washing revealed lots of bits of pottery, glass, bone (including shells), metal, badges, buttons and pins and much more- all the detritus of Charney through the ages!

There is always more to find out and add to the history of our village. If you have any information or pictures to include please get in touch at charney.history@bernerset.com **Merry Christmas!**

Charney 100 Club Draw

The results of the November draw are:

£25 No.2 – Tracey Burge

£10 No.39 – Tim Moody

Congratulations to our winners!

Wild Oxfordshire

December News – The Importance of Soil World Soil Day

Year 6th of December is **World Soil Day**, held annually to highlight it importance of healthy soil and to accelerate management. Soil is vital for plant growth, food production, water filtration, carbon storage and biodiversity, underpinning the risk of flooding. Soil can even help mitigate against climate change by storing carbon from the atmosphere. In addition, soil provides a habitat for many different species including bacteria, fungi, worms, invertebrates. It is estimated that a single teaspoon of healthy soil can contain more living organisms than there are people on Earth. Healthy soil is essential for growing our all of our food to support healthy soils. This can be in your garden through reducing the amount of chemicals you apply, composting and mulching, or growing food in your garden or allotment. Or it could be supporting farmers who are working to improve their soil quality through sustainable farming practices – when you can, buy organic or directly from the farmer.

It's fine weather for bird spotting

Winter can be quite a harsh time of year for much of our wildlife, but for some species it is a time when they can be seen in greater numbers than at other times of the year. Winter is a season, more so than many from species that we consider to summer such as redwings, fieldfares. Birds such as starlings start to flock, forming impressive murmurations in the sky. Why not visit your local nature reserve or a similar dry and see what new species you can find?

Tips for looking after wildlife this winter

- Always move your bum piles before you light them! The best habitat piles are made of dead wood, leaves and twigs. Hedgehogs like to build a nest in the bum piles. This wildlife thinks so too and so many creatures use bum piles to sleep in, including hedgehogs, frogs, voles, and toads. To avoid burning hibernating wildlife, you must move bum piles before you light them!
- Create a bit un-your bird baths, water dishes and ponds so that our winter wildlife can eat drink. Who knows which birds you might see enjoying a sip.
- Leave area(s) of your garden undisturbed to allow hibernating wildlife to sleep in peace and undisturbed. Some invertebrates hibernate in hollow stems and crevices in dead wood, so don't cut down your dead wood unnecessarily. Avoid cutting these as they might be home to sleeping beetles, bees, spiders or even ladybirds.
- Log piles are well sought after for both people and wildlife at this time of year. If you can, try to leave a pile outside undisturbed to allow hedgehogs and other creatures to find it and use it as a place to hibernate.
- If you find a sick or injured hedgehog or other wild animal, please call Tagganstones Wildlife Hospital on Phone 280752

To find out more about **Wildlife friendly gardening**, head over to the Wild Oxfordshire website at www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk and have a look in guidance

Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum

Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock, is now hosting a powerful new exhibition of artwork by Level 3 Art & Design Students at Abingdon & Witney College. At the exhibition, open until 6 December 2025, visitors 50 years time the start of the war and show the liberation of Bergen-Belsen concentration camp by allied forces.

The exhibition forms part of the museum's wider commemoration of the Holocaust and the Centenary of the Nuremberg trials in liberating Bergen-Belsen.

For more information, please go to www.soo.org.uk

Image Credits: Abingdon & Witney College

Dear All,
The end of the remainder will take us up to Christmas so please note the following dates for your diary. Our purpose is, whenever possible, to inform just when does what happen in our village and to remind people of what is on and when. We do not want to be a nuisance but we do want to make sure people know what is going on and that we do not forget to publish it.

Please see the Gift code below to access the full newsletter.

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Gift code: Charney2025 Password: Charney2025

Reading Ghost Blog

Charney Bassett Church Ghost PPG

Services in St Peter's Church

BOY HOLY COMMUNION – Sunday 7th December – 9 am

HOLY COMMUNION – Sunday 14th December – 10.30 am

FAMILY CAROL SERVICE – Wednesday 24th December – 4 pm

HOLY COMMUNION – Christmas Day – 10 am

Thursday 25th December – 10 am

More details including the dates and times of services in January 2026 can be found on the Benefice website at Whats On - Services and Events - The Benefice of Cherbury with Gainfield

Please see you on Sat Carols on the Green on Wednesday 17th December from 6 pm onwards. Take with mulled wine, sausage roll and mince pies to follow in the barn on the green

Dates for the Diary

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

POP-UP PUB & QUIZ NIGHT – Friday 28th November, 7 - 10.30 pm, Village Hall

CHARNEY HALL & FIELD TRUST MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – Wednesday 3rd December, 6.30 pm, Village Hall

CHARNEY CHAFT COFFEE CARS & CAKE – Friday 5th December, 2 – 4.30 pm, Village Hall

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR – Saturday 6th December, 10am – Noon, Village Hall. Coffee, cake and crafts, preserves and other Xmas fare

CAROLS ON THE GREEN – Wednesday 17th December, 7pm, Village Green. Mulled wine, sausage rolls & mince pies to follow in the barn

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

CHRISTMAS DAY HOLY COMMUNION – Wednesday 25th December, 10am, St Peter's Church

FINISH COUNCIL MEETING – Wednesday 14th January 2026 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

POP-UP PUB & QUIZ NIGHT – Friday 30th January, 7 – 10.30 pm, Village Hall

Merry Christmas from the Charney Chatter team

We hope you all have a wonderful festive season! We will be taking a short break from publication over the holiday period – which means there won't be a January edition of the Chatter, but there may be interim bulletins for any urgent items. Please send any items for inclusion in the February edition by January 25th to Charney.Chatter@gmail.com

Charney Chatter is sent to a subscribed monthly on behalf of the Parish Council. Occasional news updates may be sent between publication dates. Please contact the Parish Clerk (Trevor Brown) at parishclerk@charneybassett.org.uk if you would like to be added to the Parish Council's mailing list. Members without a valid email address can still be kept up to date by delivery of a printed copy of the Chatter. Please contact the Parish Clerk for details.

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