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Charney Chatter

April 2026

Great British Tidy Up 2026

Once again, our Charney Parish Council will be organising a large litter picking event, with our volunteers to lead it, over the next few weeks when rural ratepayers are hard at work, although one hardy volunteer went out in both Saturday and Sunday last weekend.

We had some excellent results last year, which made the whole thing more enjoyable and the litter was less soggy.

Interestingly, this year we had a very unusual 18 bags of rubbish compared to 30 bags last year, but we did have a very unusual number of tyres (some by themselves this year was only one year's worth of rubber).

If the Fairy ever of Charney Bassett has anything to pay for, she has in mind a choice seek cider, lager and Red Bull, and the favourite chip flavour was salt and vinegar!

Ode to Charney Litter pickers

Charney Litter pickers
Clearing roads wherever we go
Carts for taper, jackets for crisps,
All gets bagged, no chance nothing is lost.

Charney Bassett Parish Council

The Parish Council met on Wednesday, 15th March 2026 in the Village Hall.

Amongst the items that were discussed were the Charney Lock Development Update, Highways and the Local Plan Consultation. Some of the Council's responses to the Local Plan consultation were: Charney Bassett's Conservation Area needs a Conservation Area Appraisal document. Development should be in keeping with the Charney Bassett Conservation Area. Decisions on planning applications for a dog walking area at Charney Bassett Lock should be made by the Charney Bassett Parish Council. The Council has two vacancies, and these were discussed under Planning Matters. If you are interested in joining the Council, please contact the Clerk at www.charneybassettparish.co.uk, which will carry updates until the post is clearly filled. Alternatively, you can contact the Clerk if you would like to see what it involves (details of venues, weather, training) and so on.

County Councillor Cue Fonkensen presented a report including news of planned improvements to the Lockinge Roundabout, Wantage Leisure Centre, Grove Station, 30 planned, and to investigate the place of the accident, but Mr Fazan is seeing if anything can be done to bring that forward.

Draft minutes from the March meeting can be found here.

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

Minutes and agendas are available on www.charneybassett.org.uk/council-meetings/parish-council

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 13th May at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Residents are very welcome to attend.

Did you know...?

Charney Bassett has a community pub, Charney Arms. Amongst other things, this pub helps to influence planning decisions taken in the village and has been the recipient of a number of grants from the Parish Council. It also has a very active competition with the County Council. These latter initiatives have included installing white gates at village entrances (Buckland Road should be finished in April), and the Parish Council's Tree Warden has planted a number of Ancient Forest Trees (AFT) recently. We are currently trying to get a Weight Restriction Order as a means of keeping heavy lorries out of the village.

Charney Bassett Conservation Area is 1,000 years old, and is 1,000 years old, it is an appropriate time to consider refreshing it. Do you know that Grade II listed school might become village life in a year's time? Do you think that Kings and Queens, Dukes and Earls, Knights and Ladies, Bishops and Abbots, Peasants and Serfs have from you either may. Speak to one of the Parish Council members or if you prefer, email Sue Dale.

Charney Bassett Parish Council's Website Presence suggests a Plan of Action, but is guided by a residents' group. If there is sufficient enthusiasm to remain the Plan, the Parish Council will take up a Steering Group. Might you be interested in joining the Steering Group? Do you think that Charney Bassett is a good place for the rest of a career? The Parish Council will do its best to help at a stay when at can help lower with the Year, who can also report problems and issues.

Please give a name though to the Parish Council, or if you prefer, email them – it will help us decide the best way forward.

A reminder: Oxfordshire County Council is coming off 3

If you want to be kept up to date with the latest news and information from Oxfordshire County Council, please follow them on WhatsApp.

- Follow OCC's WhatsApp news channel for the latest news, events, and updates. Simply tap the link on your phone to get started.
- To stay ahead with traffic disruptions, follow OCC's WhatsApp roads channel for the latest travel alerts, road closures and disruptions.

Alternatively, you can follow OCC on Bluesky – thisisoxfordshire.news.social

Calling people who like climbing ladders...

Please get in touch with Steve Greenwood if you are willing to help him with an binding the vehicle activated speed signs. Under council rules, these should be moved every month, but they are so far under heavy and high up, even those who are prepare to needed for this.

Calling for volunteers to become PotBy/Street Super Users!

Any member of the public can use FixMyStreet to report issues in the parish. Unfortunately, not all issues are reported, and some issues, such as fly-tipping, potholes, broken bollards and blocked drains, Volunteers are **sought to be contactable** for them to fix within **30 days**.

A **Super User** can be a Parish Councillor, a Volunteer, a Resident, Full-time/part-time/retired/student, or anyone who lives in the area.

If you would be interested in becoming a Super User, please contact the Parish Clerk, Trevor Brown, at parishclerk@charneybassett.org.uk and he will share the role description with you and let you know how to apply.

Charney History - The Clarke Tapes

Mr Clarke lived in Charney Bassett for over 40 years before moving to Thame. He was a keen Charney Bassett Parish Council member and was Chairman of the Council for 3 Years (previously 23 October 2001).

Mr Jones also to the to Charney in 3 Charney Lad. He was present at Charney Bassett Lock when it was built. He was also involved in the Parish Council on a lower level of various events such as Fetes, Fayres, Flower Festivals, CWDC Meetings, Parish Meetings, Parish Council Meetings and Village Hall Meetings. In the parish Minutes Books many times passed to Jim Clarke and he has transcribed all of them into DVD.

Jim Clarke also wrote some more popular, popular culture and general knowledge, all of which was displayed by him within Wan Ka-Jong. If you've been thinking about coming along, now is the perfect time! If you can't make it in person, you can still join in online – we'll be sharing a link to the Charney History website here.

As ever, you can read about more about the Charney Charney History Website, or contact Sue Dale for more about our Charney! and if you have any questions, please contact Sue Dale, please, be sure to touch at charney.history@bitemail.com.

Charney Arms Pop-up Pub and Quiz night

The Charney Arms Pop-up Pub at the Village Hall continues to prove popular! If you haven't joined us yet, please do – you'll be very warmly welcomed. We have a fantastic, friendly, community atmosphere. Our next quiz night includes a friendly quiz. Everyone loves a quiz night, and it's always a lively, sociable event.

Our upcoming events serve music lovers, popular culture and general knowledge, all aimed and designed by our rather fitter too doing. If you've been thinking about coming along, now is the perfect time! If you can't make it in person, you can still join in online – we'll be sharing a link to the Charney Charney Website here.

Charney's new bus service may be about to change

Subject to approval from the Traffic Commissioner, there will be important changes to the bus service that calls Charney but routes from Monday 13th April.

The X51 Monday service to Wantage will now call at Charney, Steventon, Milton Park, Didcot Parkway, Didcot Power Station, Milton Park, Didcot Parkway, Cosmo and Wantage Phase. The new departure times will depart from the Market Place at 10.10.

Village Hall committee had been passenger from Charney Bassett to Wantage. Wantage Leisure Centre is required for a day in Wintney. As a result, it has submitted a request to the County Council and the Traffic Commissioner to change the route of the X51 service. The new route would mean that the X51 service runs on a Thursday to Farringdon where it then becomes the X51 service to Witney. It approved. from Thursday 16th April it would be possible to travel from Charney Bassett to Wantage Leisure Centre and back.

Timetables have still to be published but the X51 bus would leave Charney Cross, Charney Bassett, at 08.30 and arrive in Wantage Market Place at 09.00. The return journey would leave Wantage Market Place at 10.00 and arrive in Witney Market Square at 10.10. and Farringdon Market Place at 10.40. It will always planned to review its services and remains prepared to tweak services to meet passenger requirements and demand. The X51 service from Witney to Lechlade by Farringdon and Witney proves to be better supported than the X51 Wantage – perhaps because there is another bus to Wantage on a Wednesday.

Thames Valley Buses is a commercial company. It is not subsidised by the Council, but commercially operates buses that are with these new services is a lot and make them sustainable. Certainly, PotLab good these new services every Thursday and Wednesday. Thames Valley Buses's course. Passenger the initiative if you are able.

Charney 100 Club Draw

The results of the March draw are:

£25 No 41 – Katie Cox

£10 No 108 – Cassandra and Dave Wright

Congratulations to our winners!

Don't forget to pay subscriptions for 2026/27!

With March now here, it is time to renew your membership for the April 2026-March 2027 draws. If you paid by standing order last year, please check your bank to make sure that the payment has been made. If you paid by cash or cheque last year, bank transfer, just in the bank account. Cash is about £10 for each number you hold in the draw. Remember to include your surname and your 100 Club number in the payment reference.

You may find it easier to hold onto a bank transfer in an annual standing order as your subscription renewals automatically in future years. For those who prefer to pay by cash, we will be collecting subscriptions at the Pop-up Pub on the evening of March. If you have any questions or need to confirm the current details, please email charney100club@gmail.com – we are so reply within 48 hours.

There are still a few numbers available if you'd like to join the 100 Club or purchase additional numbers. Just contact us at the email address above.

Thank you for your support – it really helps us and it helps each the camera of the playing field and the Village Hall.

Eva and Jo

CHARNEY CALL & FIELD FRIDAY
Friday 27th March 2026
Meeting point: 10:00 am
@ 7am in the Village Hall

Agenda will be posted on the Charney Bassett and CHARTT Facebook page
To ask a question please contact
sue.dale@charney.org.uk

Gardening tips for April

Spring has officially sprung. Dandelions, primroses, and crocuses have all shot up their sunny heads, and the birds are busily building nests. Spring is the start of the growing season – this is where the fun begins!

Here are some tips to ensure your garden is ready and in tip-top shape ready for the growing season. Whether you're a seasoned gardener or just starting out, these tips will help you make the most of your outdoor space.

Plant for pollinators

Now is your time to start planting native plants, flowers and more. Planting native will ensure that all critters engaged beauties, such as butterflies and bees, have a thriving ecosystem to thrive in. Some of our favorites include Red Hot Poker, Fragrant Mock Orange, Lavender, Blue Hydrangeas, and of course, native and native and bulbs in the summer.

Hemerocallis provides nectar for Cicada, pure for bees, nesting for birds and food for Monarch Caterpillars – Photo by Sandra Clarke

A bee enjoying a flower in Wantage, Phyllanthus Tenuis

Provide water sources

Don't just feed the birds, give them something to drink! Water features are a must-have for any wildlife-friendly space. From birdbaths to ponds, water features provide a crucial resource for pollinators and wildlife to quench their thirst, bathe, and use as hatching grounds.

Sow what? Sow everything!

An abundance of rain and sunshine can start to be seen in April, from seeds to blooms. Now is the time to sow your garden's beds ready and bring your garden to life.

Add a compost pile

Composting really is a benefit to all, turning kitchen scraps and garden waste into nutrient-rich fertilizer, improving soil health and fertility.

- Mix in leaves, well-rotted manure, and kitchen scraps to create the ideal compost mixture. If you prefer, you can purchase a ready-made compost bin.
- Build an area based using wedge, stones and wood structures.
- Keep your compost pile moist and aerated by turning it regularly by shovel.
- Add moisture if it should be damp, not soggy.
- Turn regularly every 1 - 2 weeks.

You can then start adding your waste, such as vegetable peels and fruit cores, fresh grass clippings, coffee grounds, tea bags (shame free), weeds (but only if they haven't gone to seed), and crushed eggshells.

Photo by Sandra Clarke on Unsplash

Did someone say cake?

A recently formed group – **Leaves and Sweet** in **Head & Heart Brewing and local artisan** – enjoyed their first get together at La Fortuna, Grand Harvey, with a delicious cake and coffee on Sunday 15th March. The group, which has now enjoyed thirteen meetings, meets every third Sunday of each month.

It was such a success that we are meeting the second month on Sunday, 19th April at Grand Harvey, Wantage, from 10.30 to approximately 12.30.

If you would like to join our group, please see the Leaves and Sweet Facebook page or contact Sue Dale. Alternatively, you can contact the group through WhatsApp using the link below.

Members are invited to bring/exchange books to cover a wide range of interests, but there's no pressure to do so.

HIGHER WALKS TALKS with Thursday lunchtimes (and occasional Wednesday lunchtimes)

If you are new to Harwell, or the local villages and haven't had the opportunity to join in yet, our lively friendly group meet at 12.30pm at the pavilion at Harwell Village Recreation Ground, Crossroads Pavilion, Wantage, for a delicious table bundle for around £5 every Thursday (and sometimes Wednesday). Our bundles include a sandwich, a hot drink, a cake and a bag of crisps. We have a very friendly home to escape from computer and make new friends. We also arrange several social events during the year and all have been great fun.

If you would like to join us on any of our walks but have a question, please message or comment on our Facebook post or the West Hanney Community Group page. Our walks are: Tuesday 10am, Thursday 10am. Our walks are a Facebook page updated but you are driving to Harwell, Lockinge Wantage or Grove.

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first via Facebook to check we are walking.

Services in St Peter's Church

AN HOUR BEFORE THE CROSS
Good Friday, 3rd April – 12pm

FAMILY EASTER COMMUNION –
Sunday 5th April – 10.30 am

HOLY COMMUNION –
Sunday 12th April – 10.30 am

AFTERNOON SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION –
Friday 17th April – 2 pm

AFTERNOON SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION –
Friday 17th April – 2 pm

More details can be found on the
Benefice website at
What's On - Services and Events - The Benefice of Cherbury with Gainfield

Dates for the Diary

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

CHARNEY ARMS POP-UP PUB – Friday 27th March and Friday 24th April, 7pm, Village hall

FIRST FRIDAYS COFFEE CAKE & CHAT – Friday 3rd April, 3 – 4.30pm, Village Hall

CHARNEY HALL & FIELD TRUST MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – Wednesday 15th April, 7pm, Village Hall

Grove & Wantage Extravaganza – a collaboration between The Ray Collins Charitable Trust and Grove Rugby Club – Saturday 13th June, 12pm – 10pm, Grove Rugby Club

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 20th April 2026
Please send all items for inclusion to: charneychatter@gmail.com

Charney Chatter e-news is published monthly 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 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.
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