

# Charney Chatter

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### Your councillors:-

Mike Cox (Chairman) 868276  
David Nellist (Vice-chairman) 868593  
Sue Dobson 868119  
Jane Fry 868114  
David Roberts 868285.

Meetings are normally held at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall on the second Wednesday of odd-numbered months.

**The next meeting and the Annual Parish Meeting is on Wednesday 8th May 2013**

## Adverts and Events

### Village Diner

Come and enjoy a delicious and hearty two course lunch at Buckland Village Hall, every third Wednesday in the month. It's great value at £5.00 per head, and you will be made very welcome by the regulars. Upcoming dates to put into your diary: -

15th May

19th June

17th July

### PERSONALISED HAND-MADE CARDS

Can't find the right card for that special occasion?

Eunice will make one for you.

Ring her on 868646.

Deadline for copy for the July 2013 edition: **20th June 2013**

Contributions are welcome, preferably by e-mail. Adverts are free!

Charney Chatter can be e-mailed free to anyone giving their e-mail address to the Editor. [roger.watson@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:roger.watson@tiscali.co.uk)

## CHARNEY BASSETT VILLAGE HALL

A few weeks ago someone asked me about booking the Village Hall and I had to admit that I had no idea. However, a member of the CHAFT committee gave me a copy of the current notice that is displayed on the notice board outside the Hall. Here it is for you to cut out and keep.

*Editor*

### Charney Bassett Village Hall Hire charges

The Hall may be hired by residents of the village and by groups or organisations based within Charney Bassett at a rate of £5.00 per hour.

It is available for hire to organisations and individuals from outside Charney Bassett at a rate of £12.00 per hour.

Hiring includes use of the kitchen facilities. Charney Hall and Field Trust operates a strict no smoking policy and adherence to this is part of the booking and use conditions. The Trust regrets that there is no parking at the Hall. Cars may be brought up to the gate to drop off individuals but must then be parked on Main Street.

Residents may also arrange with CHAFT to borrow tables, chairs, crockery or the urn from the Hall. There is no set charge for use of these items but CHAFT would be grateful for an appropriate financial donation.

CHAFT also owns some large garden gazebos (10m x 3m). These are available to residents for use within Charney Bassett only. Again there is no set charge for the use of these but CHAFT would require an appropriate donation.

For further information please contact the Bookings Co-ordinator John Wright on 867418.

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### Coffee Hour

Coffee Hour every Tuesday in the Village Hall from 10.30 to 11.30 am.

The cost of £1.00 per person includes as much tea or as you like and biscuits too.

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**Proposed House Building in Charney Bassett: Second Report 04-04-13.**


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Your Parish Council Chairman, Mike Cox, and I met with Roger Sharp (Chairman of the Planning Committee) and Mike Gilbert (Head of Development) at VWHDC on Thursday, 28 March. We took Steve Champion with us in his capacity as a member of the Community-led Plan group and liaison with Mr McBain (in connection with redevelopment of McBain's yard and the old school).

We expressed our concern that an additional 28 houses represents a 25% increase in the number of houses in the village. I have released by e-mail a copy of the letter that we left with them, and our reasons for concern. You may find it helpful to read that before reading this! We were told that each planning application is considered on its own merits, but that the totality of applications for the village is taken into account. Nevertheless, it was not clear that there is any sympathy with our logic that we could accept 15 houses but not 28.

The key test for granting planning permission is SUSTAINABILITY. This takes into account the economic, environmental, and social impacts of a proposed development. VWHDC planners will consider traffic impact, effect on landscape, flood risk (especially in zones 2 and 3), sewerage capacity, and village amenities. Availability of schools is an important consideration. For "Smaller Villages" (such as Charney Bassett) developments of 5 or more houses must include some affordable houses, and developments of 15 or more must include 40% affordable houses.

On the three proposed development sites, the Parish Council takes the following views.

- We should like to see the McBain yard/school site developed; and believe that this reflects (almost) all residents' wishes.
- We object to the four houses proposed behind Longworth Road. They would be outside the built area of the village (though this carries little weight), they present a loss of privacy to residents in Longworth Road, they present an unacceptable increase in traffic, noise and disturbance to neighbours; and the access road is too narrow. Responses to my email of 17 March indicate that residents agree with the Parish Council.
- We do not support the proposed courtyard development in Buckland Road. However, we have a duty to reflect all residents' views. Residents' views vary: some are for, and some are against some sort of development in Buckland Road. The case for this site and topic has further to run.

Once again, I should be pleased to receive residents' views, and once again, I would be glad if you would pass this communication on to residents who may not have received it.

**Stephen Cowlam,**

Clerk to the Parish Council.

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**From your MP - Ed Vaizey**


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I heard recently that on 30 January, a milestone was reached – the one millionth blood stem cell transplant worldwide. This achievement was unimaginable 39 years ago. But then, 39 years ago, Shirley Nolan had only just created the world's first bone marrow register. Eight years ago, I joined in a drive to get 850 extra donors on the Antony Nolan register, to celebrate the 850<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Wallingford being granted its charter. Registering is easy, and as at least 2 former Mayors of Wallingford have found out, if you are chosen to donate, it's a fantastic thing to be able to do. So, if you would like to do something remarkable, why not contact the Antony Nolan Trust at [www.anthonynolan.org](http://www.anthonynolan.org) and join the register too?

The Government has recently announced measures to tackle welfare and irresponsible dog ownership, following consultation last year. Measures will include requirement that dogs are microchipped with details of the owner (which was supported by 96% of respondents to the consultation) and a change in the Dangerous Dogs Act to extend the offence of a dog being dangerously out of control to all places, including private property.

The Dogs Trust are giving very generous support to the measures which means a free microchip will be available for all unchipped dogs throughout England. The Government is working with the Dogs Trust to ensure that free microchips will be offered by the Dogs Trust to local authorities, housing associations and veterinary surgeries. A number of other animal welfare charities are offering free microchipping at their centres including Battersea Dogs and Cats Home and Blue Cross. This will mean that the measure can be introduced in 2016 without a cost to dog owners who might struggle to pay for the microchipping.

One of the issues that concerns many con-

stituents is the local postal service, and the wish to preserve the service that we have. Getting the post out to all the residents in our very rural constituency is no mean feat, as I see for myself every Christmas when I visit sorting offices to thank the post teams who do all the work. At the moment, one particular small but important issue is being considered - protecting rural post boxes. Ofcom have set out proposals that would protect post boxes in our villages by tightening the criteria which oblige the Royal Mail to ensure that there is a post box within reasonable reach of people in all but the most isolated places. This won't mean more post boxes being installed, but it should prevent any more being removed. I think that is much to be encouraged!

As an MP I am often alerted to opportunities that I think may benefit constituents, and two have recently come my way. Firstly, if you are working on a community project, do have a look at the People's Millions website. There's an application form there which allows local community-based projects to bid for up to £50,000. Past successes have included a training service for blind people and a cyber café run by disadvantaged young people, as well as a project that built a new toilet and washbasin area for young people in a memorial hall. There's clearly all sorts of ways such funding could be used, and with the wealth of community projects and activities across the constituency, I am sure that we have some great ideas that could be put forward. The deadline is 13<sup>th</sup> May, so please don't delay.

As ever please feel free to contact me at the House of Commons, SW1A 0AA, 020 7219 6350 or [vaizeye@parliament.uk](mailto:vaizeye@parliament.uk). Surgery details can be found at [www.vaizey.com](http://www.vaizey.com).

**Ed Vaizey MP**

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**CHAFT 100 Club March Winners & Year End**


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Result of the March 2013 Draw for Charney 100 Club

First Prize £25 Number 74 Sue Dobson

Second Prize £10 Number 24 Chris Collins

This was the last draw for the 2012-2013 financial year. Most people have now rejoined the 100 Club for the next 12 months but we have yet to track down one or two. The result is a total income of £1422 of which £575 will be used for prizes and £847 contributing to CHAFT funds with a further £72 anticipated. The total number of members will be about 125.

We would like to thank all members for supporting the 100 Club over the last year and for continuing to do so. The contribution to CHAFT will help to pay for maintenance of the Playing Field (the children's play equipment will need refurbishment soon) and any large bills for the Village Hall (the flooring is already showing signs of wear and will need to be renewed in the not too distant future).

Mahala and David

Charney 100 Club Organisers

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**Village e-mail Messaging System - Update**


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Some 90 residents have now opted into the village e mail messaging group managed by Stephen Cowlam, Clerk to the Parish Council. Members are already being kept up to date on planning issues by e mail and once existing pressures on the Clerk have been reduced consideration will be given to using the system to provide other news e.g. parish meetings, flood prevention issues, community planning, village college etc.

Consideration will also be given to adapting the system for the circulation of news from other village organisations e.g. CHAFT, St. Peter's Church, Neighbourhood Watch, etc.

In the meantime if you wish to 'opt in' please e mail  
[stephencowlam194@btinternet.com](mailto:stephencowlam194@btinternet.com)

Additionally, over 60 residents have opted into a separate e mail messaging group on planning issues managed by Steve Champion on behalf of the Charney Bassett Action Group.

If you want to add your name to this group please e mail  
[cbag1@btopenworld.com](mailto:cbag1@btopenworld.com)

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**FORTHCOMING EVENTS**


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**Maypole Dancing on Charney Bassett Green**

Bank Holiday Monday 6th May 2013 at 2.30pm

.See the May Queen crowned, local children dancing around the maypole.

Refreshments available.

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**Charney Mill Open Sunday May 12, 2013**

As part of the National Mills Open Weekend, Charney Mill will be open on Sunday afternoon, May 12, between 2:00 pm and 5:00 pm.

Members of the team that restored the mill will be on hand to guide you around the mill and to explain its importance to the village over the centuries of its use, before it ceased routine milling about a hundred years ago.

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**Patchwork & Quilting Exhibition**

Charney Bassett Village Hall,

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May, 10am – 4pm.

Come along and view a wonderful collection of work produced by the students of Charney Quilters.

Entrance: £1.50, children under 12 free if accompanied.

Refreshments will be available. Proceeds in aid of the Village College.

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