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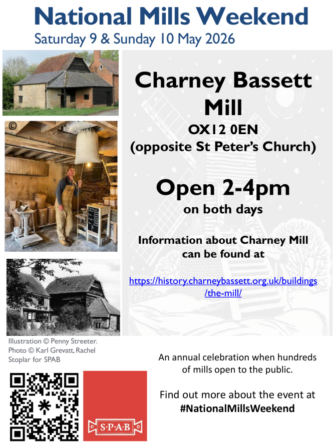
Charney Chatter

May 2026



National Mills Weekend

Saturday 9 & Sunday 10 May 2026

Charney Bassett Mill

OX12 0EN
(opposite St Peter's Church)

Open 2-4pm
on both days

Information about Charney Mill can be found at

https://history.charneybassett.org.uk/buildings/the-mill/

Illustration © Penny Streeter. Photo © Karl Grevatt, Rachel Stoplar for SPAB

An annual celebration when hundreds of mills open to the public.

Find out more about the event at **#NationalMillsWeekend**

Shifford Carriage Driving Group

Shifford Carriage Driving Group, which is now based in the village, is one of the nominated charities for the next three month round of the Waitrose Wantage branch green token scheme. For those of you who are not already aware, there are three charities nominated for each round. The one with the most green tokens in their glass tower will receive £1,500, 2nd place £1000 and 3rd place £500.

We meet on Wednesday mornings from April until September and provide therapeutic drives round the village and on off-road tracks for our adult and teenage participants. Our coaches and ponies are assessed by the Riding for the Disabled Association, and our goal is to teach some of our participants to work towards being able to drive independently. Carriage driving provides physical benefits in developing core strength and hand/eye co-ordination, promotes a sense of well being and social connection.

In order to develop the group and to provide additional activities for our participants we need funding for:

1. A new harness for Lady as her current set is showing signs of wear.
2. Pneumatic wheels for Lady's two-wheeled carriage so that driving on off road tracks is more comfortable for our participants and requires less strength and energy from Lady, who is no longer in the first flush of youth.
3. A new, lighter and more modern four-wheeled carriage for use by Tommy Zoom and Freddy. A new carriage would be more agile for teaching participants to drive in an arena and more comfortable for off-road driving for both equines and participants.

May Day Celebrations at Charney Bassett

©Toys to Grow On

The traditional May Day celebrations will be held on Monday 4th May. As has been a tradition for many years, the crowning of the May Queen and dancing around the May Pole will be central to the afternoon.

Although people are welcome to turn up and join in with the dancing on the day, we will be holding a few practice sessions for those who wish to come along. These will be held, weather permitting, on the Green at:

5-6 pm Friday 24th April (All welcome, particularly new/younger children)

4-5 pm Saturday 25th April

5-6pm Friday 1st May

4-5 pm Saturday 2nd May

You can come to all or none of these practice sessions, but the idea is to give anyone who would like to join in the opportunity to have a bit of practice. We will have some more complicated dances for the older, keener children to do and some simpler ones, which anyone can join in with.

The actual May Day celebrations will start with tea at 3pm on Monday 4th May with the parade, crowning of the May Queen and dancing from 3.30pm on the Village Green (weather permitting!)

Cake donations will be very welcome – PLEASE! Please email Ruth to confirm if you can bring something along! ruthhclements@live.co.uk

We look forward to seeing you!

Ruth Clements and Alex Jacob

May Day Celebrations
Charney Bassett Village Green
Monday 4th May 2026

Come along for **Tea and Cake**, the crowning of our **May Queen** and enjoy **Traditional Dancing** around the May Pole. All welcome.

3pm start, crowning of the queen at 3.30pm

Charney Bassett Parish Council

Each year, the Parish Council holds an open village meeting, with this year's meeting scheduled for Wednesday 13th May at 7pm in the Village Hall. This Village Assembly is separate to the Parish Council's Annual Meeting, which is held later in the evening. It is intended as a forum in which residents can listen to contributions from the various groups and organisations that have formed in the village over the years, ask questions, and express opinions on any village topic. The groups who are involved include Charney Army, the Lost Paths Group, the Road Safety Group and Charney and Lyford Allotment Partnership (CLAP).

Charney's County and District Councillors are also invited to the Assembly to provide updates from their respective Councils and should be available to take questions on any village concerns, whether that's safety issues on the A420, changes to recycling centres or potholes around the village.

Please do come along if you can: the meeting usually lasts less than an hour.

After the Assembly, the Parish Council will hold its Annual Meeting. Residents are most welcome to stay for this meeting, where the councillors elect a Chair and Vice-Chair and decide on who will take on responsibility for particular council areas, such as footpaths, planning and health, and who will be appointed roles on the various village group, such as CHAFT and CLET. The usual Council matters will also be discussed, such as planning applications and a finance report.

Minutes from the Parish Council meeting in March can be found on www.charneybassett.org.uk.

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

Parish councillors' details can be found at www.charneybassett.org.uk/council-parish/parish-council/

A quick reminder – don't overfill your bins!

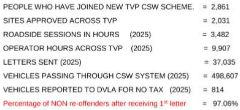
If you overfill your bins – general waste, recycling or garden waste – they might not be collected. VoWH waste and recycling policy requires that bin lids be fully closed in order for them to emptied on the scheduled collection day. If you have too much recycling, extra items can be left in a clear plastic bag or a cardboard box next to the wheelie bin. If you have too much general waste or garden waste, you will either need to squash it in or keep hold of it for the next collection day.

COMMUNITY
SPEED WATCH
AREA
POLICE

The Charney Bassett speed watch volunteers continue to have a presence in the village endeavouring to remind road users of the 20 mph limit. While the activated signs positively influence driver behaviour, a significant number of vehicles persistently exceed speeds of 35 mph.

As you might be aware, the Thames Valley Police logo has changed but this does not invalidate any signage already erected at the four entrances to the village.

A recent newsletter sent by the Thames Valley Police community speedwatch co-ordinator contained some interesting figures:

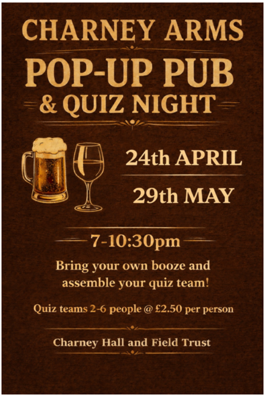


PEOPLE WHO HAVE JOINED NEW TVP CSW SCHEME. = 2,861
SITES APPROVED ACROSS TVP = 2,031
ROADSIDE SESSIONS IN HOURS (2025) = 3,482
OPERATOR HOURS ACROSS TVP (2025) = 9,907
LETTERS SENT (2025) = 37,035
VEHICLES PASSING THROUGH CSW SYSTEM (2025) = 498,607
VEHICLES REPORTED TO DVLA FOR NO TAX (2025) = 814
Percentage of NON re-offenders after receiving 1st letter = 97.06%

Over the past year Charney Bassett has reported 120 vehicles exceeding 25 mph.

As you can see the initiative continues to grow but like all volunteer organisations the need for new recruits is always ongoing. Charney Bassett needs additional volunteers, especially for the coordinator role. If you're interested in volunteering or the coordinator role, please contact Rosemary McClintock on 01235868817.

Charney Arms Pop-up Pub and Quiz night



CHARNEY ARMS

POP-UP PUB

& QUIZ NIGHT

24th APRIL

29th MAY

7-10:30pm

Bring your own booze and
assemble your quiz team!

Quiz teams 2-6 people @ £2.50 per person

Charney Hall and Field Trust

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 had some guest quiz hosts for April in Bruce and Helen. Please get in touch if you ware willing to host a future quiz night. Please book your place in May via Charney Facebook group or by email to jacquie.hamilton@chaft.org

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Dear Residents,

The Chequers Inn will be trialling out a mobile bar in the garden during some of the sunnier weekends over the summer.

There will be a soft launch on Saturday 16th May, as a sort of trial-run, to try to ensure things run smoothly for the following bank holiday weekend.

The mobile-bar will be in the garden of the Chequers Inn and will be open from 2pm on the following days in May:

- Saturday 16th May (trial run)
- Saturday 23rd May
- Sunday 24th May

There should be a full bar available as well some nibbles. We will also have Aunt Sally set up and available for those who would like to give it a go.

Depending on interest, we can look to continue this on weekends throughout the summer.

Please refer to the Chequers Inn website for updates:
www.chequersinncharney.co.uk

Kind regards,

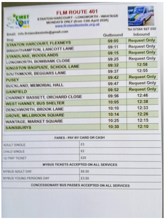
The Chequers Inn, Charney

New bus timetable now in operation

From the end of April, there have been changes to the First and Last Mile buses serving Charney Bassett.

The Monday 401 service will now leave from the Bus Shelter at 9.56am. This service will stop at the entrance to Sainsbury's in Wantage as well as the Market Square.

In response to requests the 402 service to Faringdon and then on to Witney as the 409 will now serve Charney Bassett every Thursday, stopping at the Bus Shelter at 9.28am. This service arrives at Faringdon Market Place at around 10am and Witney Market Square at just after half 10. The return journey leaves Witney Market Square at 12.15pm and Faringdon Market Place at 12.45pm. arriving in Charney Bassett shortly after 1pm.



FLM ROUTE 401

STANTON HARCOURT - LONGWORTH - WANTAGE
MONDAYS ONLY (from 13th April 2026)
www.firstandlastmile.org.uk

Tel 07584 927 050

Email: info.firstandlastmile@gmail.com

Stop	Outbound	Inbound
STANTON HARCOURT, FLEXNEYS	09:05	Request Only
BRIGHTHAMPTON, LANCOTT LANE	09:11	Request Only
STANDLAKE, WOODLANDS	09:15	Request Only
LONGWORTH, BOWBANK CLOSE	09:25	Request Only
KINGSTON BAGPUIZE, SCHOOL LANE	09:32	12:58
SOUTHMOOR, BEGGARS LANE	09:37	12:55
PUSEY	09:42	Request Only
BUCKLAND, MEMORIAL HALL	09:47	Request Only
GAINFIELD	09:52	Request Only
CHARNEY BASSETT, ORCHARD CLOSE	09:56	12:46
WEST HANNEY, BUS SHELTER	10:05	12:38
DENCHWORTH, BROOK LANE	10:10	12:33
GROVE, MILLBROOK SQUARE	10:14	12:26
WANTAGE, MARKET SQUARE	10:25	12:15
SAINSBURYS	10:30	12:10

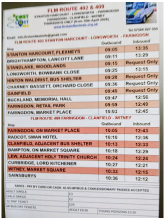
FARES - PAY BY CARD OR CASH

ADULT SINGLE	£3
CHILD SINGLE	£2
12-TRIP TICKET	£25

MYBUS TICKETS ACCEPTED ON ALL SERVICES

MYBUS ADULT DAY	£6.50
MYBUS YOUNG PERSONS DAY	£3.50

CONCESSIONARY BUS PASSES ACCEPTED ON ALL SERVICES



FLM ROUTE 402 & 409

STANTON HARCOURT - LONGWORTH - FARINGDON
FARINGDON - CLANFIELD - WITNEY
THURSDAYS ONLY (from 16th April 2026)
www.firstandlastmile.org.uk

Tel 07584 927 050

Email: info.firstandlastmile@gmail.com

FLM ROUTE 402 STANTON HARCOURT - LONGWORTH - FARINGDON

Stop	Outbound	Inbound
STANTON HARCOURT, FLEXNEYS	09:05	13:35
BRIGHTHAMPTON, LANCOTT LANE	09:11	13:29
STANDLAKE, WOODLANDS	09:15	Request Only
LONGWORTH, BOWBANK CLOSE	09:25	13:15
HINTON WALDRIST, BUS SHELTER	09:28	Request Only
CHARNEY BASSETT, ORCHARD CLOSE	09:36	Request Only
GAINFIELD	09:40	Request Only
BUCKLAND, MEMORIAL HALL	09:47	12:56
FARINGDON, RETAIL PARK	09:59	12:49
FARINGDON, MARKET PLACE	10:03	12:45

FLM ROUTE 409 FARINGDON - CLANFIELD - WITNEY

Stop	Outbound	Inbound
FARINGDON, ON MARKET PLACE	10:05	12:43
RADCOT, SWAN HOTEL	10:10	12:36
CLANFIELD, ADJACENT BUS SHELTER	10:13	12:33
BAMPTON, ON MARKET SQUARE	10:18	12:29
LEW, ADJACENT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH	10:24	12:24
CURBRIDGE, LORD KITCHENER	10:27	12:21
WITNEY, MARKET SQUARE	10:33	12:15
SAINSBURYS	10:36	12:12

FARES - PAY BY CARD OR CASH. ALSO MYBUS & CONCESSIONARY PASSES ACCEPTED

ADULT SINGLE	£3	
CHILD SINGLE	£2	
12-TRIP TICKET	£25	
MYBUS DAY TICKETS	ADULT £6.50	YOUNG PERSONS £3.50

Charney Hall and Field Trust (CHAFT) – call for additional volunteers!

Charney's village hall and playing field both play an important part in the life of the village. These amenities are provided and maintained by CHAFT. You can find out more about CHAFT, its objectives, management and history here.

CHAFT will be holding its **Annual General Meeting** on **Wednesday 17th June, starting at 6.30pm** in the Village Hall. At this meeting, reports from the Chair and the Treasurer will be presented, representatives of local organisations (namely the Parish Council and St Peter's Church) will be appointed, and village representatives will be elected. Straight after this meeting, the newly elected CHAFT Management Committee will hold its first meeting, at which the Secretary, Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer will be appointed, and membership of the various sub-committees will be agreed.

After many years of excellent service to CHAFT and the village, the current Treasurer has announced her intention to stand down at this forthcoming meeting, and no other current elected member is in a position to take over this role. **We need you!** CHAFT cannot continue without sufficient trustees and without this key role being filled. We also have three 'vacancies' for elected members: having a larger Management Committee would enable tasks to be shared.

The CHAFT Management Committee meets six times a year (usually February, April, June, August, October and December), typically on the second Wednesday of the month in the evening for just over an hour, occasionally slightly longer if there are many matters to discuss. Committee members are welcoming and meetings are upbeat and a positive experience.

If you would like more information on CHAFT or the responsibilities of the Treasurer, please contact Jamie at chair@chaft.org

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THE CHARNEY HALL AND FIELD TRUST (CHAFT)
(CHARITY NO. 294765)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 17th June at 6.30pm in the Village Hall
Please contact secretary@chaft.org to raise a question

Coming next month! Save the date!

St Peter's feast

Saturday 27th June at 6.00 pm

Meal on the Green

Spit roast and pudding; Vegan alternatives available

Tickets will be available to order from the start of June

Tickets: £15.00 per person;

£5.00 children of primary school age; Free for preschool age.

Got questions?

Contact Lucy on gildersleeveslucy@gmail.com

or 01235 868782 / 07702 421256

Ladies who socialise in West & East Hanney and local areas

There was another successful get together on Saturday 18 April, with almost 30 ladies from the recently formed ladies social group getting together. We chatted, drank tea and coffee, and ate great cake again! Thank you to La Fontana Restaurant.

Several events are already planned for the next few months but we would welcome any ideas and members are invited to plan events too. If you haven't already joined our group, you are welcome to do so. Please see our group on Facebook or message our WhatsApp number 07840 968736.

We now look forward to another larger get together next month.

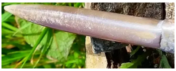
The History of Charney in a number (yet to be determined) of objects

It has become a bit of a trend to describe and explain the history of a place through a number of objects so we thought we would try that for Charney, in roughly chronological order, and see how we get on!

Object No. 1: Fossils

The village is built on Stanford formation limestone, with clay and gravel beds winding between. This sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 157 to 164 million years ago in the Jurassic Period in shallow carbonate seas. It is made up of carbonate material (coral, shell fragments), forming beds and locally reefs. If you dig down in your garden and find the bedrock then it is almost certain that you will come across fossils such as these found at the base of one of our archaeological digs.

In the soils and gravels around the village you can often find the remains of Belemnites. Belemnites lived during the Jurassic and Cretaceous periods i.e. about 200 million to 66 million years ago; they died out at about the same time as the dinosaurs. Their closest living relatives are squid and cuttlefish. Unlike modern squid, they had a hard internal skeleton. In the animal's tail, the skeleton formed a bullet-shaped feature called a rostrum. This is what is commonly found as fossils: the size varies but they are typically 5cm (2") long. They are sometimes called bullet stones for obvious reasons.



So, these objects are perhaps the oldest former inhabitants of what was Charney-on-(or 'in')Sea.

Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum

***Lee Miller: A Woman at War* exhibition to go on display at Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock, this summer.**

- **Exhibition of war photographs by renowned photojournalist, photographer and surrealist, Lee Miller from 23 May – 13 September 2026.**
- **Follows a major exhibition of her photographs at London's Tate Gallery.**
- **Includes photos taken of nurses at Churchill Hospital Oxford, her first wartime assignment for Vogue.**
- **Alongside many iconic photographs taken in wartime Britain, Miller accompanied US troops into Europe, a correspondent on battles and the liberation of concentration camps.**

During the Second World War Lee worked as a combat photographer with the US Army, creating a unique historical record.

The new exhibition will showcase her experiences of the time, covering her war correspondence work for Vogue from 1942 where she highlighted women's roles in the war effort, as well as the reality of life for women caught up in conflict across Europe. Her first wartime assignment for Vogue captured nurses at work at a then-US Army hospital in Oxford – Headington's Churchill Hospital. A number of these photos will feature in the exhibition, returning to the county in which they were taken, a look back at the earliest days of her war photojournalism.

Miller would become one of the few female photojournalists on the front line covering the Normandy invasion and the liberation of Paris. Her work in the newly-liberated concentration camps of Buchenwald and Dachau was sent to Vogue in 1945, accompanied by the caption 'I IMPLORE YOU TO BELIEVE THIS IS TRUE.'

Her background in surrealism often came to the fore especially with her photographs of the Blitz, and the iconic photograph of her bathing in Hitler's bathtub in Munich on the same day he died was heavy in symbolism, she wrote 'I washed off the dirt of Dachau in his tub'.

Her 60,000+ negatives and documents were discovered in her attic by her son, Antony Penrose, after her death, leading to her recognition as a pivotal 20th-century artist and photographer.

Admission prices apply, please see www.sofo.org.uk for up-to-date admissions and visitor information, including prices, offers and opening times.

Image Title: Me with smallest and tallest (Lee Miller with Jean Peltier and Sergeant Robert Burchfield), Luxembourg 1944 by Unknown Photographer (6106-120)

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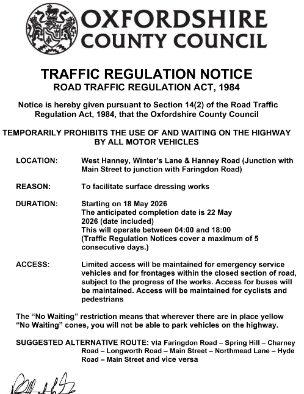
Charney 100 Club Draw

The results of the April draw are:

1st Prize no 152 £25 Tamsin Rawlings
2nd Prize no 76 £10 Charles Eld

Congratulations to our winners!



OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

TRAFFIC REGULATION NOTICE

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT, 1984

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 14(2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act, 1984, that the Oxfordshire County Council

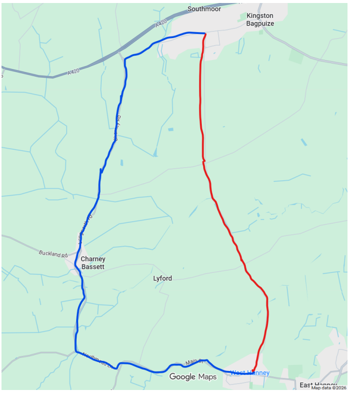
TEMPORARILY PROHIBITS THE USE OF AND WAITING ON THE HIGHWAY BY ALL MOTOR VEHICLES

LOCATION:	West Hanney, Winter's Lane & Hanney Road (Junction with Main Street to junction with Faringdon Road)
REASON:	To facilitate surface dressing works
DURATION:	Starting on 18 May 2026 The anticipated completion date is 22 May 2026 (date included) This will operate between 04:00 and 18:00 (Traffic Regulation Notices cover a maximum of 5 consecutive days.)
ACCESS:	Limited access will be maintained for emergency service vehicles and for frontages within the closed section of road, subject to the progress of the works. Access for buses will be maintained. Access will be maintained for cyclists and pedestrians

The "No Waiting" restriction means that wherever there are in place yellow "No Waiting" cones, you will not be able to park vehicles on the highway.

SUGGESTED ALTERNATIVE ROUTE: via Faringdon Road – Spring Hill – Charney Road – Longworth Road – Main Street – Northmead Lane – Hyde Road – Main Street and vice versa

Phil Whitfield
Head of Network Management
Date: 16 April 2026



Services in St Peter’s Church

BCP HOLY COMMUNION –
Sunday 3rd May – 9 am

COME & PRAISE + BAPTISM –
Sunday 10th May – 10.30 am

AFTERNOON SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION –
Friday 15th May – 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

FIRST FRIDAYS COFFEE CAKE & CHAT – Friday 1st May, 3 – 4.30pm, Village Hall

MAY DAY CELEBRATION – Monday 4th May, 3pm, the Green

CHARNEY BASSETT MILL OPEN DAYS – Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th May, 2-4pm

CHARNEY BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL VILLAGE ASSEMBLY – Wednesday 13th May, 7pm, Village Hall, followed by the Parish Council Meeting

CHEQUERS INN MOBILE BAR –

Saturday 16th May, 2pm (trial run)
Saturday 23rd May, 2pm
Sunday 24th May, 2pm

CHARNEY HALL & FIELD TRUST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – Wednesday 17th June, 6.30pm, Village Hall, followed by the Management Committee Meeting

POP UP PUB & QUIZ NIGHT - 29th May 7-10.30pm, Village Hall

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 20th May 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.

The Parish Council’s policy on privacy and data protection

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