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Charney Chatter

August 2026

Village feasting

It has been a tasty start to the summer in Charney Bassett.

At the end of June, a village feast was held on the Village Green in support of St Peter's Church, raising over £450. Many thanks to the Gildersleeves family for organising and running this event, and to Charney Army for their help setting up and clearing away.

In early July, an Indian feast was held in New Road in support of CHAFT, the charity that owns and maintains the Village Hall and Playing Field. Many thanks to Manish and Jenny for hosting, and to Samidha (Manish's mum) for preparing such delicious food.

Charney Bassett Parish Council

The Parish Council met on Wednesday 8th July in a very warm Village Hall. Amongst the many topics of discussion were planning applications and maintenance of the bridlepath that runs from the village to Stanford in the Vale. County Councillor Lee Evans presented a comprehensive report on his work to support the village and other parts of his constituency. Work to repair the pavements in the village is just starting, and improvements to the Longworth Road junction on the A420 are imminent. The next meeting of the Parish Council is scheduled for Wednesday 9th September at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, and residents are most welcome to come along.

- Minutes from Parish Council meetings can be found on www.charneybassett.org.uk.
- Trevor Brown (Parish Clerk) can be contacted at clerk@charneybassett-pc.gov.uk
- Parish councillors' details can be found at www.charneybassett.org.uk/council-parish/parish-council/

Charney 100 Club Draw

The results of the July draw are:
£25 No 83 – Richard Podd
£10 No 92 – Hugh Brooks
Congratulations to our winners!

The History of Charney in a number of objects

Object No 4: Saxon Brooch

This Saxon brooch, from Cherbury Camp, is held in the reserve collection of The Ashmolean Museum and is not on display. It was originally presented to the Pitt Rivers Museum by Sir William Anson in 1918. It is made of copper alloy, with traces of gilding. The detailed description for the broch includes: 'above the bow is a rectangular field with an inverted face-mask'; 'the shoulders are each formed into an animal head with gaping jaws'; 'the terminal lobe has a slightly prominent inverted face-mask'. The double hinge has traces of iron corrosion and the catch is missing, its site marked by a roughened area as though previously repaired.

The accession register states that the brooch is from the same mould as that found at Longbridge, Warwick, with small variations due to chasing.

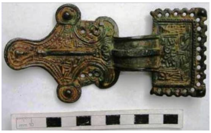


Image reproduced by kind permission of the Ashmolean Museum © Ashmolean Museum, University of Oxford

These types of brooches were used by both men and women to fasten gowns and cloaks at the shoulder, and were both functional fasteners and indicators of wealth. They were also sometimes used to suspend strings of jewellery and beads across the chest. Whilst no date is given for this one, it could range from 450-1066 AD.

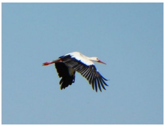
As ever you can read much more about Charney on the Charney History Web Site. There is always more to find out about our village and if you have any information or pictures to include, please do get in touch at charney.history@btinternet.com.

More time to shop!

Please note that the 401 Monday bus service to Wantage now has a revised route and timings. It will leave Charney Bassett bus stop at 09:48, reaching Wantage Market Square at 10:05 or Sainsburys at 10:10. Coming back, you can catch the bus at Wantage Sainsburys at 12:25 or the Market Square at 12:30, and get back to Charney Bassett at 12:48. The more direct route through Denchworth and Grove will allow additional time in Wantage, which has been requested.

How's Doris? She is doing very well!

Many of you will remember Doris (aka GB 46), a white stork who visited Charney in March 2020 and stayed for while (at around the time of the first COVID Lockdown).



Doris was hatched at Cotswold Wildlife Park and released at the Knepp Estate in West Sussex in 2019. She gained fame for her extensive travels across the UK (including travelling to Charney) and the Netherlands before returning to Knepp to build nests.

On visiting the Knepp project earlier this summer, we asked the Head Ecologist if he had any news about Charney's Doris. He pointed to the middle one of three nests in a tree, and there was Doris, with her three chicks from this year! Well done Doris and Knepp!

Last season, the Estate saw a record-breaking 45 chicks successfully fledge into the wild from 19 active nests, and conservationists expect another strong year as monitoring and ringing continue.

Maybe one of her chicks will come to visit

CHARNEY HALL & FIELD TRUST MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday 19th August
at 7pm in the Village Hall

Agenda will be posted on the Village Website and CHAFT Facebook page
by 12th August
To ask a question please contact
secretary@chaft.org

You can read minutes from previous meetings at
CHAFT | Meetings | The Village of Charney Bassett

Small people can do big things

At just six years old, Arabella has made the most beautiful decision.

She's growing her hair with the sole aim of donating it to The Little Princess Trust, where it will be made into a wig for someone in real need.

Arabella needs to fundraise, to allow **The Little Princess Trust** to continue their incredible work of providing free, real-hair wigs to children and young people who have lost their hair through cancer treatment and other conditions.

She won't meet the person who receives her hair. She won't see their smile or hear their thanks. But she understands something deeply human: that kindness matters, and that even small people can do big things.

Wigs cost over £700 to make so Arabella has set a target of £1,000 to cover all the costs.

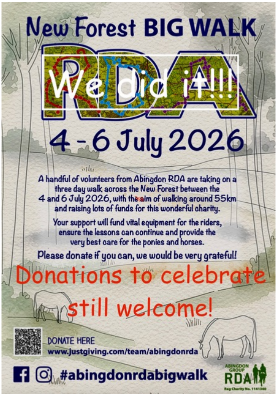
Her hair needs to be 12 inches long, so it will be growing throughout the summer and we hope it will be long enough by the beginning of September.

We hope you are able to donate to this wonderful cause and support this journey – from one small head of hair to a world of hope.

https://www.justgiving.com/page/arabella-redmond-webb-1?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL

Walking for a good cause

Although Amanda and friends have now completed this 55km walk, and their blisters have almost healed, your donations are still welcome to support Abingdon RDA, a good local cause.



New Forest BIG WALK

RDA

We did it!!!

4 - 6 July 2026

A handful of volunteers from Abingdon RDA are taking on a three day walk across the New Forest between the 4 and 6 July 2026, with the aim of walking around 55km and raising lots of funds for this wonderful charity.

Your support will fund vital equipment for the riders, ensure the lessons can continue and provide the very best care for the ponies and horses.

Please donate if you can, we would be very grateful!

Donations to celebrate still welcome!

DONATE HERE
www.justgiving.com/team/abingdonrda

#abingdonrdabigwalk

ABINGDON GROUP RDA
Reg Charity No. 1141360

Libraries Summer Reading Challenge

The Summer Reading Challenge is running from 4th July to 5th September 2026 in all Oxfordshire Libraries.

This year’s fun, free challenge is encouraging children to explore the creative power of reading and music. Just like songs have rhythm and energy, stories do too!

To find out more, please visit Libraries Summer Reading Challenge | Oxfordshire County Council

Local government reorganisation

On Thursday 16th July, the government confirmed that Oxfordshire and West Berkshire will move to three new councils in 2028, bringing together current county, city and district services.

The new councils will be:

- Greater Oxford Council: Covering Oxford and its immediate surroundings
- Northern Oxfordshire Council: Covering most of the existing Cherwell and West Oxfordshire districts
- Ridgeway Council: Covering most of the existing South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse districts, combined with West Berkshire

Find out full details of the three-unitary proposal on 3councils.org

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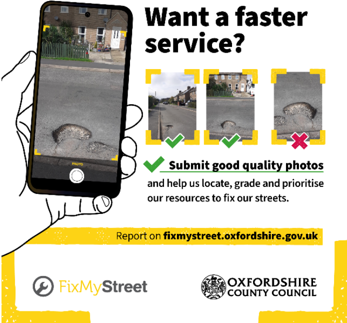
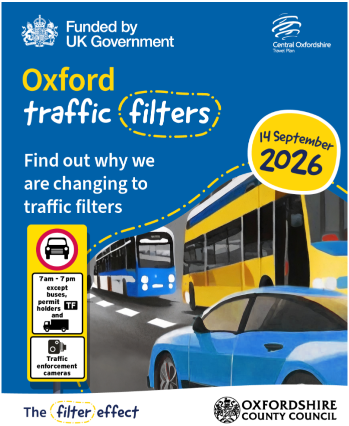
SEND US YOUR
POTSHOTS



Want a faster service?

Submit good quality photos and help us locate, grade and prioritise our resources to fix our streets.

Report on **fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk**



Funded by UK Government

Oxford traffic filters

Find out why we are changing to traffic filters

14 September 2026

Central Oxfordshire Travel Plan
7am - 7pm except buses, permit holders TF and
Traffic enforcement cameras
The filter effect
OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum

Lee Miller: A Woman at War

Tue – Sat 11am – 5pm, Sun 2pm – 5pm I Ends 13 September 2026

There's still time to catch this summer's headline exhibition featuring 33 wartime photographs by Vogue model, surrealist photographer and photojournalist, Lee Miller. See stunning images from the 1940s, from her first snaps for British Vogue - taken at Oxford's Churchill Hospital - to following US troops into the war in Europe.

Now open alongside the Lee Miller exhibition is a mini-exhibition by museum volunteers, Capturing Conflict which looks at the tools of war correspondents like Lee, from the Crimean War to the Falklands. Admissions apply – see www.sofo.org.uk/visit-us for prices (admissions include 12 months entry)

Lee Miller exhibition at Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum (Colin Morris Photography)

Wild Oxfordshire

Making Room for Nature: Micro-Habitats in Urban Areas

You may think nature only thrives in big reserves. but it also squeezes into the cracks and corners of our urban environments.

So, whether that's a garden, a balcony, a windowsill, or just the wall of your home, there's always room for a splash of green amongst the urban landscapes.

In ecology, a "microhabitat" is a small area with its own unique environment that differs from the surrounding habitat. Mini ponds, bee hotels, and even bird boxes, create a quiet refuge for the creatures sharing our built landscape, and these small sanctuaries carry real ecological weight.

And never underestimate the impact of helping nature. Every species, no matter how small, plays an important part in supporting healthy ecosystems and the delicate balance of life around us. Micro habitats can help in many ways including attracting insects that play a role in pollination, storing moisture and regulating temperature, and breaking down organic matter.

Walls
Urban walls can provide valuable wildlife habitats. Living walls, planters, crevices, logs, and swift bricks offer food, nesting, and overwintering sites for pollinators, bees, and beetles.

Water
Natural ponds and streams are ideal, but even small features such as birdbaths, rainwater pools, and mini ponds can support insects, amphibians, birds, and mammals while helping regulate local temperatures.

Gardens
Even the smallest garden can support a variety of microhabitats. By planting diverse species, especially native plants, providing natural food sources, and leaving some areas undisturbed, urban gardens can become important wildlife refuges and biodiversity corridors.

Gardening tips for August

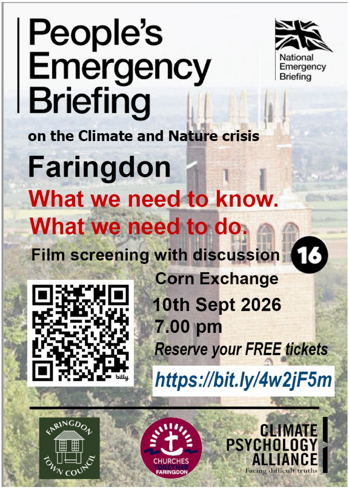
Put up bat boxes

Create a home for bats in your garden over the summer and put up bat boxes in large trees or buildings. Place them high up (at least 3 to 4 metres), sheltered from the wind, and exposed to the sun for most of the day. See the guidance on the [Bat Conservation website](#).

Bat boxes can be bought from various stores and websites, or if you're feeling crafty, you can make them yourself.

Leave food and water for hedgehogs
Continue to leave out dishes of water and meat-based (not fish!) dog or cat or hedgehogs, before they go into hibernation in early Autumn.

Feeding hedgehog, Rachel Bosley



People's Emergency Briefing

National Emergency Briefing

on the Climate and Nature crisis

Faringdon

What we need to know.
What we need to do.

Film screening with discussion 16

Corn Exchange
10th Sept 2026
7.00 pm
Reserve your FREE tickets
https://bit.ly/4w2jF5m

FARINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

CHURCHES TOGETHER FARINGDON

CLIMATE PSYCHOLOGY ALLIANCE
Facing difficult truths

Services in St Peter's Church

In August, there's just one service in Charney Bassett

BCP HOLY COMMUNION –
Sunday 23rd August – 10.30 am

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

Need a cool, quiet space to escape from the heat?

Don't forget that St Peter's church is open and you are welcome to take a pew in the cool!

Dates for the Diary

CHARNEY HALL & FIELD TRUST MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING – Wednesday 19th August, 7pm, Village Hall

CHARNEY BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – Wednesday 9th September, 7.30pm, Village Hall

THE CHEQUERS INN will be hosting a mobile bar in the pub car park on several dates throughout the summer. Dates will be advertised through the Charney Bassett Village Facebook page, and on the noticeboard below the pub sign in the village. Please keep an eye out and pop along to join the fun!

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 20th August 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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