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Charney Chatter

July 2026

Charney Bassett Parish Council

The Parish Council will be holding its next meeting on Wednesday 8th July in the Village Hall starting at 7.30pm. As usual, residents are most welcome to attend.

In July, we are expecting a report from County Councillor Lee Evans on his work to support the village, including plans to repair and improve pavements, roads and nearby bridges, and updates on his efforts to make it easier to use the recycling and waste centres. Planning applications will be on the Agenda, with decisions from the Vale of White Horse still awaited on applications submitted for the Chequers Inn and Charney Manor at time of writing.

There will also be updates on maintenance work along the bridle path that runs from the village to Stanford in the Vale. Many thanks to readers who contacted the Chatter about the overgrown path. Councillor Evans and Parish Councillor Kay Adamson both contacted Oxfordshire County Council to highlight the need for action and were reassured that the initial cut would take place before the end of June. With a bit of luck, work will have been completed before this Chatter is read! If it has not, it will be chased!

- 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/

The Chequers Inn

Although it will be a while before the Chequers Inn re-opens its doors, the team behind the pub plan to run a mobile bar on selected sunny weekends throughout the summer. Dates and times will be publicised through the Chequers Inn website, so please keep checking www.chequersinncharney.co.uk. If you have any ideas for events that they could run, please email info@chequersinncharney.co.uk with your suggestions.

Community hub coming to a location near you!

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils’ Community Hub team will be visiting local community organisations over the coming months to offer support for residents struggling with the cost of living.

The next visit is scheduled for **Wednesday 15 July**, from 2 to 4pm at the Vale Community Impact Pop-Up Café (Petypher House), Kingston Bagpuize OX13 5FR.

No booking is needed - more dates and locations will be shared on the district council websites and social media over the coming months.

For more information, go to the Community Hub page.

Cost of living support

Residents with oil-fuelled heating who are struggling with the cost of buying more fuel may be eligible for support through the Oxfordshire Crisis Support Scheme.

Those not eligible for financial support through this scheme can still access help by contacting Better Housing Better Health for free warmth and wellbeing advice, energy-saving support and information on other fuel grants.

For other cost-of-living support, contact our Community Hub team on 01235 422600 (option 3) or email communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk.

Don’t miss bin day…

Vale of White Horse District Council has refreshed and relaunched two of its communication channels to help residents keep up to date with waste and recycling.

The **new Binfluencers WhatsApp Channel** has been set up to send updates about collection changes, recycling tips and more straight to residents' phones. More information and the link to follow the channel can be found at whitehorsedc.gov.uk/Binfluencers

The **new BinDays web app** has replaced the councils' Binzone app, so you may need to update your phone to find out when your bins will be emptied for the next two collections. More information is available at whitehorsedc.gov.uk/BinDays

And put your bin out early!

From 29 June, the district councils will be making small changes to waste and recycling routes on collection days, so residents have been advised to put their **bins out by 6am** rather than 7am.

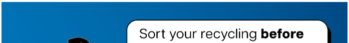
CHAFT still needs you!

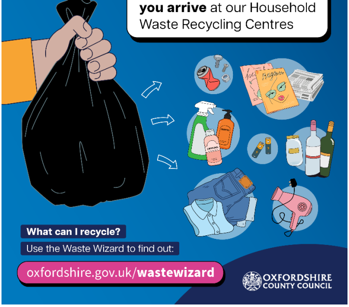
Charney's Village Hall and Playing Field both play an important part in the life of the village. These amenities are provided and maintained by the Charney Hall and Field Trust (CHAFT), which is a registered Charity (No. 294765). You can find out more about CHAFT, its objectives, management and history here.

After many years of excellent service to CHAFT and the village, the current Treasurer, Christine Trotman, stood down at the Annual General Meeting in June. She will be missed by all the CHAFT Management Committee and was presented with a small gift in grateful thanks for all her hard work.

No other current member of the Management Committee is able to take on this role. We need you! CHAFT cannot continue without sufficient trustees and without this key role being filled.

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. If you would like more information on CHAFT and becoming a trustee or a member of the Management Committee, or if you think you could help take on the role of Treasurer, please contact Jamie at chair@chaft.org




you arrive at our Household Waste Recycling Centres
What can I recycle?
Use the Waste Wizard to find out:
oxfordshire.gov.uk/wastewizard
OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

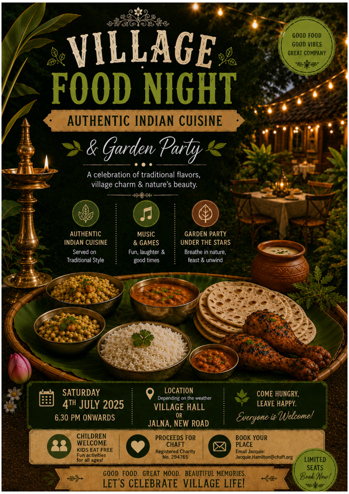
Village social events!

The pop up pub at The Chequers seems to have been a popular event for the summer so we have decided to wait until September to continue with our last Friday Charney Arms Pop up Pub in the Village Hall.

Meanwhile we have a summer food event very generously hosted by Manish and Jenny on Saturday 4th July from 6:30pm. Based on weather this will be an open air garden party at Jalna in New Road or, if the weather is against us, we will retreat to the Village Hall. This is a ticketed event so we can plan numbers and we are delighted that Samidha (Manish’s mum) will be preparing an authentic Indian feast ably assisted by Gopal and all the family - so come along hungry! Please don’t be shy as it will be a lovely celebration of village life and everyone will be made welcome. We will ask for a suggested donation of £10 a ticket (kids eat free!) with all proceeds going towards the maintenance and refurbishment of our Village Hall.

Hope to see you there…

For more details or tickets please contact Jacquie.Hamilton@chaft.org.

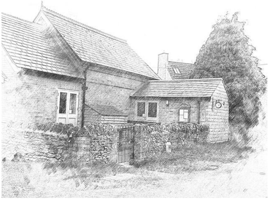

VILLAGE
FOOD NIGHT
AUTHENTIC INDIAN CUISINE
& Garden Party
A celebration of traditional flavors, village charm & nature's beauty.
GOOD FOOD GOOD VIBES GREAT COMPANY
AUTHENTIC INDIAN CUISINE
Served on Traditional Style
MUSIC & GAMES
Fun, laughter & good times
GARDEN PARTY UNDER THE STARS
Breathe in nature, feast & unwind
SATURDAY
4TH JULY 2025
6.30 PM ONWARDS
LOCATION
Depending on the weather
VILLAGE HALL
OR
JALNA, NEW ROAD
COME HUNGRY, LEAVE HAPPY.
Everyone is Welcome!
CHILDREN WELCOME
KIDS EAT FREE
Fun activities for all ages!
PROCEEDS FOR CHAFT
Registered Charity No. 294765
BOOK YOUR PLACE
Email Jacquie: Jacquie.Hamilton@chaft.org
LIMITED SEATS
Book Now!
GOOD FOOD. GREAT MOOD. BEAUTIFUL MEMORIES.
LET'S CELEBRATE VILLAGE LIFE!

Charney Bassett Village Hall For Hire

Need a venue for your next meeting, club, class or celebration?

Charney Bassett Village Hall offers a welcoming, charming community space with:

- ✓ Fully equipped kitchen including crockery and urn
- ✓ Tables, chairs, and gazebos available to borrow
- ✓ Affordable hire at £12 per hour



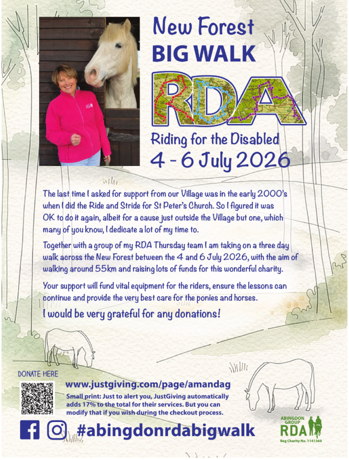
Located in Chapel Lane, off Main Street, Charney Bassett

For bookings and enquiries contact: Linda Ritchie (Bookings Secretary)
bookings@chaft.org

The perfect local venue for community activities and special occasions.
For more information: https://charneybassett.org.uk/village-hall-field/village-hall/

Registered Charity Number 294765

LOWER YOUR ENERGY BILLS
WITH THE
WARM HOMES: LOCAL GRANT
CIAT
Welcome the Warmth
OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL



New Forest
BIG WALK
RDA
Riding for the Disabled
4 - 6 July 2026

The last time I asked for support from our Village was in the early 2000's when I did the Ride and Stride for St Peter's Church. So I figured it was OK to do it again, albeit for a cause just outside the Village but one, which many of you know, I dedicate a lot of my time to.

Together with a group of my RDA Thursday team I am 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.

I would be very grateful for any donations!

DONATE HERE

www.justgiving.com/page/amandag

Small print: Just to alert you, JustGiving automatically adds 17% to the total for their services. But you can modify that if you wish during the checkout process.

#abingdonrdabigwalk

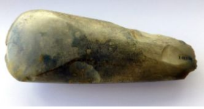
ABINGDON GROUP RDA
Reg Charity No. 1141360

The History of Charney in a number of objects

Object No 3: Stone Axes

A polished flint axe-head was dredged from the River Ock at Charney Bassett in the summer of 1978. It was recovered from the Thames Water Authority spoil heap by Basil Sharpus. The axe head is of mottled grey flint, faceted at the cutting edge and with narrow facets along each edge. It would have been bound on to a wooden or antler haft. It is a very tactile object and would have been a valuable item; it is possible that it was deposited in the river as an offering of some sort.

The axe was described in The Oxoniensia Journal in 1979.



Flint axes vary considerably from one period to another, from simple Palaeolithic hand axes to the finely ground Neolithic axes such as this one. In the Neolithic (c4000 to c2,500 BC), axes were first roughed-out by knapping, but were then polished using abrasive sand and water, or a shaped rubbing stone. This time-consuming process produced a more durable cutting edge that could easily be sharpened.

A stone bronze age battle axe has also been found in the village so keep your eyes open when digging in the garden, you never know what might turn up.

As ever you can read about 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.

Nature-Friendly Summer Activities for Kids

As summer kicks off, it's the perfect time for all ages to get outdoors and help out your local wildlife (even on those not-so-sunny days).

1. Make a mammal footprint tunnel

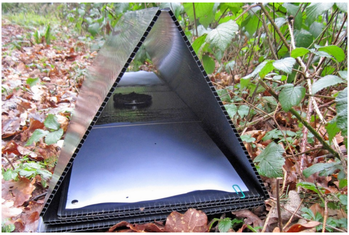


Image credit: Gardener’s World

What you’ll need:

- Sand or flour
- Ruler
- A small, shallow tray
- Wet cat food (meat not fish)

1. Fill your tray
Fill the tray with lots of flour or sand and use the ruler to smooth the surface

2. Check the trap
Lightly press your finger into the flour or sand – it should leave an indent. If it doesn’t, smooth over again.

3. Add bait – optional
Place a dish with pet food in the middle of the tray.

4. Place the tunnel outside
Put the tunnel in a quiet, sheltered spot such as along a hedge or wall. Leave it out for up to a week, checking the tray daily for tracks.

5. Identify the footprints
Take photos of the prints with a ruler for scale. Use ID guides to identify your guests.

2. Make seed bombs

Rewilding in the palm of your hand!

What you’ll need:

- 1 cup natural powdered clay
- 1 cup peat-free compost
- 1–2 packets of native wildflower seeds (pollinator-friendly is best)
- Water (a little at a time)
- Bowl for mixing
- Tray or cardboard for drying

1. Mix the Dry Ingredients
In a bowl, mix:
1-part powdered clay
1-part compost
Seeds

2. Add Water Slowly
Add a little water at a time and mix with your hands until the mixture sticks together. It should not be too wet or crumbly.

3. Roll Into Balls
Roll the mix into small balls.

4. Dry Them Out
Place the seed bombs on a tray or cardboard and leave them to dry for 24–48 hours in a warm place.

5. Throw and grow!
Once dry, the seed bombs are ready to be tossed into bare soil areas in gardens or school grounds. Try and plant before rain is forecast or water them lightly and watch as pollinator habitats increases on your grounds.

3. Go Fungi spotting

Neither animal nor plant, fungi play a vital role in keeping our local habitats healthy. They help break down old leaves, wood, and other natural materials, turning them into rich soil that supports new life. Some species of fungi even form relationships with plant roots through the root-like mycelium. These ‘mycorrhizal networks’ help plants absorb water and nutrients while providing the fungi carbohydrate – a win-win!

You can find fungi almost anywhere: on logs, in soil, under trees, even on walls and woodchips!

Fungi are best found:

Nearby woodlands

Around fallen trees or logs

On leafy ground and tree stumps

In damp, shady spots after rain

What you’ll need:

- A notebook or spotting sheet
- Fungi ID app (like iNaturalist or Shroomify UK)
- A magnifying glass (optional)
- Gloves

The most common fungi in the UK this summer are:

Waxcaps – Known for their shiny caps, Waxcaps can be red, violet, yellow, green, or pink. They are commonly found in grasslands, meadows, and urban lawns and parks.

Parasol mushrooms – Tall fungi with a wide, round cap, a brown to black scaly top, white gills, and a white or off-white stem. Often found in woods, meadows, and fields.

Puffballs – Round fungi with a stem, no cap, and no gills. They release clouds of spores when touched. Puffballs are often found in open meadows, fields, and well fertilised lawns, as well as forest undergrowth. They never grow on logs or trees, only on the ground.

Chicken of the Woods – Easy to spot thanks to its bright sulphur-yellow colour. It forms thick, soft, fan shaped shelves and grows high up on the trunks of mature trees such as oak.

Elf Cups – Cup shaped and bright red, scarlet elf cups grow on decaying sticks and branches in damp spots and leaf litter.

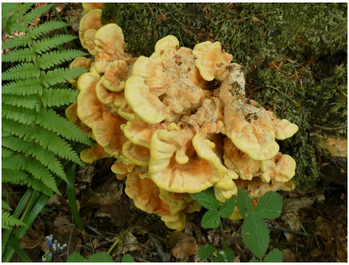
Safety tips!

Never pick or eat mushrooms.

Take photos, not samples.

Wash your hands afterwards.

Stick to public footpaths and avoid damaging habitats.



Laetiporus sulphureus, Chicken of the Woods, Ann Berkeley

Gardening tips for July

1. Nectar is wildlife’s friend

You can help attract bees, butterflies, and other nectar-loving insects to your patch by planting nectar-rich plants.

Add climbers that may also produce berries and hips, such as Honeysuckle and Dog Rose. And go a step further and attract moths with night-scented plants like Evening Primrose and Night-Scented Stock.

2. Cut back on the cutting back!

After a beautiful bloom, avoid deadheading roses this time of year. This way, some will develop hips (the fruit of the species of rose plant), which will feed birds and small mammals come winter.

Rosehips, Rhiannon Young

3. Big Butterfly Count

Here's another one for your diary: July marks the Big Butterfly Count. Don't just take part, give our fluttering friends a helping hand by leaving an area of grass to grow long until the end of summer. Species such as the Meadow Brown will use these patches to breed.

Charney 100 Club Draw

The results of the June draw are:

1st Prize no 10 £50 Gordon Rothwell

2nd Prize no 101 £25 Jo Garner

Congratulations to our winners!

Dates for the Diary

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

VILLAGE FOOD NIGHT – Saturday 4th July, from 6.30pm, Village Hall or Jalna, New Road (depending on the weather)

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – Wednesday 8th July, 7.30pm, Village Hall

COMMUNITY IMPACT POP UP CAFE – Wednesday 15th July, 2-4pm, Petypher House, Kingston Bagpuize

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Services in St Peter's Church

BCP HOLY COMMUNION – Sunday 5th July – 9 am

HOLY COMMUNION – Sunday 12th July – 10.30 am

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

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

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DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 20th July 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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