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# Charney Chatter

JUNE 2026

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## May Day celebrations in Charney Bassett

May Day was celebrated in style on the Village Green once more, with ribbons and cake a-plenty, and numerous friends and neighbours coming together to enjoy a fabulous afternoon!

This year's May Queen was Amelie MacNamara, who was attended by Lottie Glockner and Louis Ardley-Millar. Amelie was crowned in a traditional ceremony, with flowers beautifully arranged by Mary and Alex, despite the latter's broken leg!

Many thanks go to the brilliant band who accompanied the maypole dancing. It was lovely to see all the children joining in and performing some quite complex dances! A significant amount of tea was enjoyed alongside a wonderful selection of homemade cakes, always a sign of a popular and successful event.

Special thanks to all the kind folk who helped to set-up, take down, make tea and cakes, wash up and clear away, showing what an excellent community spirit there is in the village.

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## Life returns to the Chequers Inn!

Although the pub itself will not be open for business until next summer, the Chequers Inn opened the beer garden and served drinks and nibbles from a fully stocked mobile bar on 16th, 23rd and 24th May. Aunt Sally was also set up and quite a few people tried to hit the Dolly, some with more success than others.

All three days proved very popular with villagers, who were very happy to be able to meet on the pub grounds once again.

The Chequers Inn plans to continue running its mobile bar on selected (and it is hoped sunny) weekends. The proposed dates so far are:

- 6th June
- 13th and 14th June
- 28th June

All openings from 2pm, although dates and times will be confirmed through the Chequers Inn website, so please keep checking
www.chequersinncharney.co.uk

WELCOME
to
THE
CHEQUERS
Inn
Aunt
Sally
COCKTAILS

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## Charney Bassett Parish Council

The Parish Council held its Annual Village Assembly on Wednesday 13th May in the Village Hall. This Assembly provides a forum in which villagers can meet, ask questions and express opinions on any topic of relevance to Charney Bassett. Village groups and organisations – including St Peter's, Charney Army, the Lost Paths Group, the Road Safety Group and the Charney and Lyford Allotment Partnership – present brief updates on activities over the last year.

This year, after updates from the Parish Council and County Councillor, updates were presented by:

- Reverend Talisker – St Peter's Church
- Jacquie Hamilton – Charney Hall and Field Trust (CHAFT)
- Mike Gooding – Charney and Lyford Allotment Partnership (CLAP)
- Charles Eld – Charney Army
- Ian Graham – Charney History Group
- Tracey Burge –Communications Group
- Trevor Brown – Charney Mill Group

Reports were also presented on behalf of the Lost Footpaths Group, Speedwatch Group, Charney Mill Group, the Movable Vehicle Activated Signs (MVAS) Task Force and Charney and Lyford Educational Trust (which was meeting on the same day).

There was a lengthy discussion on the vegetation overgrowing the Stanford bridlepath, with some people wishing to retain the vegetation to promote biodiversity and some wishing to maintain a clearer, less nettle-strewn path for walking and for the horse riders. There was also some debate as to who should be maintaining the bridlepath. Charney Army would be happy to tackle it, but some people felt it would be best to leave this to contractors working for OCC. If you have an opinion on this, please email charneychatter@gmail.com with the subject line 'Maintenance of the bridlepath to Stanford'. Responses will be raised at the Parish Council meeting in July.

After the Assembly, the Parish Council held its Annual Meeting, where David Roberts was elected as Chair and Mary Castle was elected as Vice-Chair. Councillors also agreed who would take responsibility for overseeing the various activities and areas of concern, such as footpaths, planning and health, and who would represent the Council on the various village groups, such as CHAFT and CLET.

- Minutes from the Annual Village Assembly and May's Parish Council meeting 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 next meeting will be held on Wednesday 9th July at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Residents are most welcome to attend.

COMMUNITY
SPEED WATCH
AREA
POLICE

## Can you help?

At the Annual Village Assembly, it was announced that the Co-ordinator of the Speedwatch Group, Rosemary McClintock, wishes to stand down and attempts to find a replacement have so far proved unsuccessful. Without a village Co-ordinator, Speedwatch sessions cannot take place. Last year, some 122 motorists received a warning letter for exceeding 25 mph through the village. There are currently nine volunteers in Charney, but there is space to welcome more! Volunteering takes no more than an hour of time each month, with training and support provided. Any residents who care about vehicles speeding through the village are invited to speak to Rosemary about volunteering or taking on the coordinator role on 01235 868817 or to email the Parish Clerk at clerk@charneybassett-pc.gov.uk.

## South and Vale Active Communities initiative

During term-time and most school holidays, an Active Communities team offers a range of free and low-cost activities, for young children, teenagers and families to enjoy at locations across South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse.

Bookings open around a month before each holiday period – follow the new Active Communities Facebook page or join the mailing list to receive regular email updates. If you have any questions; please email active.communities@southandvale.gov.uk

The activities on offer are usually very popular, and booking is essential. For more information, please visit Active Communities - activities for everyone - Vale of White Horse District Council.

## Successful open days for Charney Bassett Mill

Thanks to everyone who helped to get Charney Mill ready for National Mills Weekend on 9th and 10th May.

Some 60 visitors were welcomed to the Mill over the course of the weekend and just over £73 was collected that has been added to the maintenance funds. A big thank you to Steph Wright for undertaking the lion's share of the organising.

If you couldn't attend over the Open Weekend but are interested in viewing the Mill, please contact Trevor Brown (clerk@charneybassett-pc.gov.uk).

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**
**THE CHARNEY HALL AND FIELD TRUST (CHAFT)**
**(CHARITY NO. 294765)**

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

The AGM will be followed by a meeting of the new Management Committee.

Agendas will be posted on the Village website and the Village Noticeboard by 10th June

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## Charney Hall and Field Trust (CHAFT)

**The new swings are in place!**

After several months of careful consideration, CHAFT organised the replacement of the swings in the children's play area on Charney Field. Infinity Playgrounds carried out the work to install the new swings, and to replace all the bark around the swings and the climbing equipment, in just two days in mid-May, with everything in place just in time for the half-term holidays! Many thanks to Bruce Royan for liaising with the suppliers and getting everything sorted!

### Many hands, one village – here's your chance to help to keep the Village Hall and Playing Field thriving!

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.

**CHAFT** will be holding its **Annual General Meeting** on **Wednesday 17th June, starting at 6.30pm** in the Village Hall, and this year there is a **call for additional volunteers**!

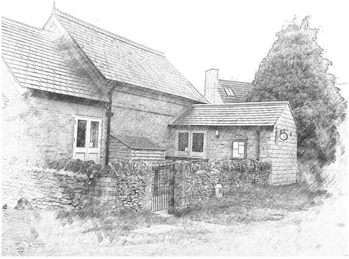
After many years of excellent service to CHAFT and the village, the current Treasurer has announced her intention to stand down, and no other current elected members are in a position to take over this role. **We need you!** CHAFT cannot continue without sufficient trustees and without this key role being filled.

At the General Meeting meeting, reports from the Chair and the current 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.

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 and becoming 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

### A quick reminder: if you're looking for somewhere to meet…



The Village Hall may be hired by residents of the village and by groups or organisations based within Charney Bassett. Residents can also borrow tables, chairs, crockery or the urn from the Hall, or large garden gazebos (10m x 3m) that are owned by CHAFT for use within Charney Bassett. For more information, including fees, please visit Village Hall I The Village of Charney Bassett or contact the Bookings Secretary at bookings@chaft.org

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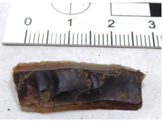
## The History of Charney in a number of objects

### Object No 2: Flint Blade

The earliest people in this area were probably nomadic hunter-gatherers, moving with the seasons and the availability of game, fruits and nuts. Evidence that they were here comes from tool-making equipment and stone tools, particularly those made from flint.



This picture shows a lovely double-edged flint blade, very finely worked and still sharp after thousands of years. It was found in a test pit we dug in the south of the village.

The test pit contained large quantities of Mesolithic (9000-4000 BC) to Neolithic (4000-2500 BC) worked flint material, including blades and scrapers and debitage (waste material from making the tools).

The high volume of material found may indicate a flint working area within the vicinity of this test pit, which was excavated adjacent to the River Ock. Comparable sites indicate that these types of area were important during the early prehistoric periods, as it is common to find flint working areas adjacent to rivers and streams. So, there may well have been a group of people temporarily living by side of the River Ock, making flint tools and hunting in the marshes and streams for food.

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## 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

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## Swifts need your help

We are very lucky in Charney Bassett to have swifts returning to the village every summer for their short nesting period. These birds spend up to 10 months of the year in continuous flight; this means that they sleep, eat and mate while in flight, only landing to nest. They provide a wonderful spectacle as they scream around our roof-tops on warm summer evenings. The common collective noun for swifts is ‘a scream’

But, sadly, swifts are in decline. We can help by providing special swift boxes, as several people in the village have already done – you can buy them ready-made or make your own following advice available online – or by including swift bricks in new buildings.

The Natural History Museum in Oxford has had swifts returning to nest there for over 80 years and the museum is urging people to install swift boxes as numbers fall. You can view their nesting swifts via the Museum’s webcam.

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## Charney 100 Club Draw

The results of the May draw are:

£25 No 105 – Ruth Gerring

£10 No 131 – Jodie and Mark Redmond-Webb

Congratulations to our winners!

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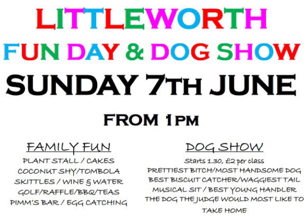
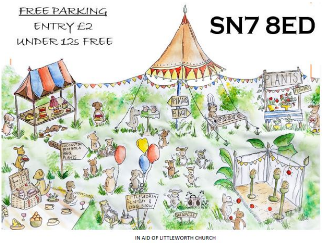


LITTLEWORTH
FUN DAY & DOG SHOW
SUNDAY 7TH JUNE
FROM 1PM

FAMILY FUN
PLANT STALL / CAKES
COCONUT SHY/TOMBOLA
SKITTLES / WINE & WATER
GOLF/RAFFLE/BBQ/TEAS
PIMM’S BAR / EGG CATCHING

DOG SHOW
Starts 1.30, £2 per class
PRETTIEST BITCH/MOST HANDSOME DOG
BEST BISCUIT CATCHER/WAGGIEST TAIL
MUSICAL SIT / BEST YOUNG HANDLER
THE DOG THE JUDGE WOULD MOST LIKE TO TAKE HOME



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# *Raymond Burley*

## *Classical Guitarist*

*playing Bach, Villa-Lobos, Tansman, Duarte, Albeniz and Moreno Torroba*

## *Saturday 20th June at 7pm*

*At and in aid of*

## *Littleworth Church SN7 8ED*

*Tickets: £10 early bird/£15 from 7th June*
*to include a glass of wine & light refreshments*
*BACS: Littleworth Church,* **30-99-50, 24813660,** *ref* **GUITAR**

*Kindly supported by*

120 YEARS ST HUGH'S
OXFORDSHIRE
Est. 1906

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## Ladies who socialise in West & East Hanney and local areas

Our recently formed ladies social group has proved very popular. Originally this was set up for ladies based in East and West Hanney and the surrounding local areas, but through word of mouth and publicity on Facebook it has expanded into other parts of Oxfordshire and we now have over 400 members!

It's a friendly group of ladies of varying ages and backgrounds, and two further events were enjoyed last weekend. The first was a typical English Afternoon Tea for 9 ladies at the beautiful Littlecote House. The tea was lovely and they catered wonderfully for vegetarian, vegan and coeliac diets too. It was thoroughly enjoyed, so much so that another visit is already planned for July with a few spaces available.

We also had a coffee and cake get-together in the pretty village of Ardington. This was enjoyed by almost 30 ladies, many of them new members, with a further get-together here at the end of May already almost fully booked.

If any ladies would like to join us, please search for our group on Facebook, you'll be made very welcome.

# Ladies who socialise in West & East Hanney and local areas ›

Private group · **425** members

Wild Oxfordshire

## Insect Week: Tiny Creatures, Big Impact

They may be small, but insects make a BIG difference to nature recovery.

From 22 to 28 June, the Royal Entomological Society's Insect Week is a celebration of all things insect. And these small critters really do make a difference…

There are over 24,000 species in the UK alone, and they can be found in almost every habitat. Insects play many roles – as pollinators, predators, pests, parasites and prey – and their study has long been central to conservation, food production, medicine and ecology.

Yellow Wagtail in Oxfordshire, Mike Pollard

At Wild Oxfordshire, insects are essential to our Yellow Wagtail Partnership project. Established in 2020 by patron Dr Robin Buxton, the Partnership works with the Earth Trust, Church Farm Partnership and Lower Farm, to "learn and communicate as much as possible about the impact of different land management techniques on both this species and the wider environment."

As a migrant species, insects are a vital part of Yellow Wagtail diets, but recent changes in farming practice and other human impacts on the landscape have led to habitat and insect declines, harming Yellow Wagtail populations. They now find themselves on the conservation red list. To find out more about the Partnership and how you could help, please visit Wild Oxfordshire.

And please don't forget to record your Yellow Wagtail sightings to TVERC (Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre).

## Gardening tips for June

***Want to help garden birds? Don't feed them in warmer months!***
The RSPB have released guidance on feeding birds, stating that putting up bird feeders in your garden could be putting some species at risk disease. Stop filling bird feeders with seeds and peanuts from **1 May to 31 October** to prevent too many birds gathering in one place. Instead, still put out small amounts of mealworms, fat balls or suet all year round.

***Let the grass grow in some places***
June is peak time for insects like butterflies, bees and beetles. Leaving even a small patch of lawn uncut creates shelter and food for the likes of meadow browns and large blue butterflies, and thick-legged flower beetles.

***Go chemical-free***

Gardening organically is a good way to ensure that the food and plants you grow are free of pesticides or chemicals, and the wildlife will thank you for it too. Stopping the use of chemicals may lead to the return of slugs, snails and insects such as aphids, but don't worry! In time, so will their natural predators, such as hedgehogs and slowworms to help keep pest numbers down.

***Keep bird baths topped up***

Fresh water is essential for birds in warm weather. Keep a shallow dish of water with a few pebbles in it, to also help insects drink safely, but only if you are willing to replace the water **daily** and clean the bird bath **weekly** to prevent the spread of diseases, especially in the warmer months.

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## Services in St Peter's Church

BCP HOLY COMMUNION –
Sunday 7th June – 9 am

HOLY COMMUNION –
Sunday 14th June – 10.30 am

AFTERNOON SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION –
Friday 19th June – 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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## Dates for the Diary

**In the village…**

THE CHEQUERS INN MOBILE BAR – Saturday 6th June; Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th June; Sunday 28th June – from 2pm each day (times to be confirmed)

FIRST FRIDAYS COFFEE CAKE & CHAT – Friday 5th June, 3 – 4.30pm, Village Hall

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

CHARNEY ARMS POP-UP PUB – Friday 26th June, 7pm, Village Hall

ST PETER'S FEAST 'MEAL ON THE GREEN' – Saturday 27th June, from 6pm on the Village Green

**Slightly further afield…**

LITTLEWORTH FUN DAY AND DOG SHOW – Sunday 7th June, from 1pm, Littleworth SN7 8ED

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

RAYMOND BURLEY, CLASSICAL GUITAR CONCERT – Saturday 20th June, 7pm, Littleworth Church

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