Charney Chatter

September 2026

CHARNEY ARMS POP UP PUB

After a summer of Pop Up Pubs outside the Chequers we now plan to resume our 'Charney Arms Pop Up Pub' in the Village Hall. We know that while some people really enjoy the quiz night, others would prefer just to come along and chat with friends and neighbours. So we will run the quiz in September and November and hold a Village social (with/without board games/cards) in October and January for a less structured, less competitive and more relaxed evening.

Dates will be the last Friday in the month from 7-10:30pm as follows:

- September 25th - Quiz Night
- October 30th - Village Social
- November 27th - Quiz Night
- January 29th - Village Social

Please bring your own drinks, snacks and a small donation (suggest £3 per person) to cover hall costs.

We look forward to seeing you!

🌿 Volunteers needed – Charney Wick Ditch tidy up 🌿

CHAFT (Charney Hall and Field Trust) is looking for volunteers to help clear Charney Wick Ditch on the mornings of the first two Saturdays in September, 5th and 12th, from 10am.

We're hoping to get a good team together to tackle overgrown vegetation and give the ditch some much-needed attention, helping to keep the area well maintained and a beneficial habitat.

❌ For Health & Safety and insurance requirements, we cannot use petrol or electric-powered equipment. However, there is still plenty that can be achieved using loppers, secateurs, rakes and hoes.

🌱 No specialist experience is needed – just bring yourself, suitable outdoor clothing and, if you have them, your own hand tools and gardening gloves.

If you'd like to get involved and help make a difference in our local community, please email:
lucygildersleeves@chaft.com
We'd love to see you there!

Would you join a rota of volunteers to help keep the grass in St Peter's churchyard mown?

Our lovely church warden Iain is generous with his time to try to keep the churchyard neat and tidy, but he could really do with some help. We are looking to put together a rota of volunteers who would do a mowing or strimming stint from time to time.

If we can gather a pool of volunteers, everyone's turn will come round less often!

If you prefer a bit of weeding to mowing, we would also love to hear from you.

Please drop us an email on charneychurchwarden@gmail.com or gildersleeveslucy@gmail.com if you would be willing to be part of the mowing or weeding teams.

Thank you

Charney Bassett Parish Council

The Parish Council will be holding its next meeting on Wednesday 9th September in the Village Hall starting at 7.30pm. As usual, residents are most welcome to attend, and there is an opportunity to raise any matters of concern under the 'Information Exchange' that is always on the Agenda. Planning applications will also be discussed, with decisions from the Vale of White Horse still awaited on applications submitted for the Chequers Inn and Charney Manor at time of writing.

During July, repairs and improvements were made to pavements between the Village Hall and the corner closest to St Peter's Church, despite the intense heat. It's a treat to walk on smooth, hole-free pavements once again! Several dropped crossing kerbs have been installed with gentle slopes and tactile paving to provide safer crossing places. Many thanks to County Councillor Lee Evans for championing this work.

- 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/

If you're looking for a sociable way to spend an afternoon, why not come along to Charney Bassett's FIRST FRIDAYS COFFEE CAKE & CHAT? This informal gathering takes place on the first Friday of every month (except January). In September, you can join us on Friday 4th September, from 3 – 4.30 pm in the Village Hall. Cups of tea will also be available! We look forward to seeing you there.

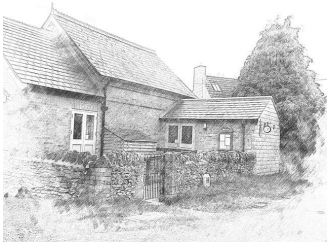
Calling all keen gardeners!

Can you spare a bit of time each month to tend to the small garden area at the junction of New Road and Main Street? The people who have been looking after this area are unable to continue and it would be a shame to see all their hard work go to waste or, more likely, weed. If you are interested in helping out, please contact cllr.tracey.burge@charneybassett-pc.gov.uk

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

Charney Bassett Village Hall
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

Charney 100 Club Draw

The results of the August draw are:

1st Prize no 95 £25 David Roberts
2nd Prize no 113 £10 Evelyn Campbell/Steve O'Connor

Congratulations to our winners!

The History of Charney in a number of objects
Object No 5: Tympanum

The Tympanum in St Peter's Church is undoubtedly one of our treasures.

In architecture a tympanum refers to a flat or sculpted panel above a medieval church door or inside a classical temple's pediment. The name comes from the ancient Greek word tumpanon and the Latin tympanum, which both mean "drum" or "hand-drum" and is also used as the medical term for our eardrums (tympanic membrane).

There have been many opinions by scholars about the imagery of our tympanum panel and it was also covered in an article in The Daily Telegraph. The most recent explanations come from 'Comments/Opinions from The Corpus of ROMANESQUE SCULPTURE in Britain & Ireland' where it is described as follows:

> 'the main field shows a central, frontal standing man with almond-shaped eyes, a moustache, and a row of fluting on top of his head which could signify curly hair or a crown. He is dressed in a long skirt articulated with grooves for folds, and his overlength arms are stretched out to embrace the necks of two confronted griffins which bite the man's upper arms with their beaks. These griffins have almond-shaped eyes and feather patterns in the form of long parallel grooves on their wings and overlapping scales on their necks and the upper parts of their bodies. Their lower bodies are not plumed. Each has four legs with long clawed feet.'

The carving is of high quality, and apart from the griffins there are furled-leaf terminations - a link to a carving in Reading Abbey has been considered. A date in the later 1130s or the 1140s is suggested, and the possibility of some workshop connection with Reading is not ruled out. As for the iconography, a likely source for the image is from imported Persian textiles, it was probably perceived in terms of man beset by vice or temptation rather than a story from the Alexander the Great legend as some have postulated.

If you've not seen it then why not go and take a look and see what you think!

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. For example, a recent update is on recollections of teaching practice at the village school in the early '70s.

Farmer Clusters: What Happens When Farmers Team Up to Create a Healthier Landscape?

Farmer Cluster, Sophie Cunnington

Wild Oxfordshire

Wild Oxfordshire is a charity seeking to create a more natural, resilient, and biodiverse Oxfordshire for the benefit of all.

Farmer clusters

Many of us probably don't think about our local farmers on a regular basis (except when we're stuck behind a tractor on a country road!), but they are the heart of our rural landscape, growing food, managing road hedgerows, as well as playing a vital role in supporting wildlife across the countryside. Agricultural land accounts for 71% of land nationally and 74% in Oxfordshire. And so, inevitably, the way farmland is managed will have a huge impact on the biodiversity that land can support, for better or worse. Today, farmers and land managers play a vital role in maintaining, restoring and creating important habitats. Farmers are now joining forces in the form of farmer clusters (also known as farmer-led groups) to care for the landscape, creating space for wildlife and healthier soils, wetlands, and habitats.

These groups aim to facilitate collaborations between farmers and landowners to deliver landscape-scale conservation projects. They also act as support systems and social networks by giving guidance and advice and enabling the sharing of experiences and knowledge. Vitally, farmer clusters are designed to be farmer-led, meaning that members play a key role in the decision-making and direction of the cluster as well as giving them a sense of ownership.

The Clumps and Ridgeway Farmer Clusters

At Wild Oxfordshire, we are proud to facilitate two Farmer Clusters: The Clumps Farmer Cluster, a group of 14 farms located around the Wittenham Clumps, covering just over 5,000 hectares, and the Ridgeway Farmer Cluster with a membership of 15 farms. Wild Oxfordshire is supporting these clusters to deliver workshops and events that meet the specific needs of local farmers. These workshops have covered a broad range of topics from soil health, biodiversity net gain, and hedgerow management, to understanding changes in government grants and farm diversification. The clusters are also delivering on-the-ground projects, including the Ridgeway Dew Pond Project, restoring dew ponds on the Chalk Downland, and a public engagement project where members of the Clumps Farmer Cluster have installed signs to help walkers understand what they can do to look after the countryside. Both clusters are collaborating with neighbouring clusters to further their impact, whether through shared training events or the Chalkland Revival Project, in which the Ridgeway Farmer Cluster is one of five clusters working together to support farmland birds and manage deer populations across the North Wessex Downs. In addition, we are pleased to share that we have been awarded funding from the Rothschild Foundation, which will support long-term development and project delivery as well as empowering our members to continue to do their bit for nature in Oxfordshire.

Sophie Cunnington

How can you help?

A farmer yourself? For more information on Farmer Clusters and how you could get involved, visit farmerclusters.com for advice and funding information.

But you don't have to be a farmer to support wildlife in farmland. Here are a few ways you can support the countryside and your local farmers:

Follow the countryside code - leave gates and property as you find them, follow local signs, and keep to marked paths unless wider access is available.

Protect the environment - take your litter home, always bag up dog poo, do not light fires, and only have BBQs where signs allow them. Always keep dogs in sight and on leads around livestock and during the bird breeding season.

Enjoy the outdoors - visit your local farm shop, learn more about farming and share your knowledge with others, and submit any wildlife sightings to Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre.

Support your local farmers: buy local food where possible at farm shops and local markets.

The People's Emergency Briefing

The *People's Emergency Briefing* film on the potential risks to British life from ongoing damage to nature and to our climate is coming to Faringdon. The original showing in the Corn Exchange was fully booked a month before the screening date, so a second showing has been arranged at All Saints Church, at **6pm on 13th September**.

The film features footage from last November's National Emergency Briefing in Westminster, bringing together leading UK experts in climate science, food security, health, economics, national security and nature, and presents their views on how the climate and nature crisis is affecting everyday life in Britain, and what the science says about future risks and the responses urgently required.

Following the 50-minute film, there will be a structured discussion on what this means for us all. The initiative is explicitly non-partisan and supported by a wide (and growing) range of organisations, including the Church of England, the National Trust, WWF, the Royal Meteorological Society and many others.

Admission is by free ticket booked in advance at https://bit.ly/4wdHOoF or use the QR code on the poster. Tickets are going fast, so sign up now!

All Saints Church
13th Sept 2026
6.00 pm
Reserve your FREE tickets
https://bit.ly/4wdHOoF
FARINGDON TOWN COUNCIL
CHURCHES TOGETHER FARINGDON
CLIMATE PSYCHOLOGY ALLIANCE
Facing difficult truths

Funded by UK Government
Oxford traffic filters
7am - 7pm except buses, permit holders TF and
Traffic enforcement cameras
Central Oxfordshire Travel Plan
28 September 2026
Drive a car in Oxford?
On Monday 28 September 2026 the traffic filters trial will start.
From this date, the £5 congestion charge will no longer apply.
Cars with permits and all other vehicles will be able to travel through the traffic filters.
If you don't have a permit for your car, you will need to use a different route.
Marston Ferry Road
St Cross Road
Hythe Bridge Street
Thames Street
St Clement's
Hollow Way
scan me
Find out more about our traffic filters trial
www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/trafficfilters
Sign up to Your Oxfordshire to get updates straight to your inbox
oxfordshire.gov.uk/youroxfordshire
The filter effect
Building connections, expanding opportunity
OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

FREE ENTRY
donations welcome
THE OM
in Woodstock
TIMELESS TALES

Services in St Peter's Church

BCP HOLY COMMUNION –
Sunday 6th September – 9 am

HARVEST FESTIVAL –
Sunday 13th September – 10.30 am

AFTERNOON SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION –
Friday 18th September – 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

FIRST FRIDAYS COFFEE CAKE & CHAT – Friday 4th Sept, 3 – 4.30pm, Village Hall

CHARNEY WICK DITCH TIDY UP – Saturday 5th Sept & Saturday 12th September, 10am

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – Wednesday 9th Sept, 7.30pm, Village Hall

PEOPLE'S EMERGENCY BRIEFING – film screening with discussion (free ticket holders only) – Sunday 13th Sept, 6pm, Corn Exchange, Faringdon (First showing Thursday 10th Sept, 7pm, Corn Exchange, Faringdon for those who already have tickets)

CHARNEY ARMS POP UP PUB (Quiz Night)– Friday 25th Sept, 7-10.30pm, Village Hall

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 20th September 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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