

# Charney Chatter

NUMBER 54

March 2013

## Published by Charney Bassett Parish Council

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### Your councillors:-

Mike Cox (Chairman) 868276  
David Nellist (Vice-chairman) 868593  
Sue Dobson 868119  
Jane Fry 868114  
David Roberts 868285.

Meetings are normally held at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall on the second Wednesday of odd-numbered months.

**The next meeting is on Wednesday 13th March 2013**

## Enjoy a Ridgeway Day

The Ridgeway is an ancient track across England, a 4,000 year-old trade route, and today a National Trail. It links hillforts, barrows and hill figures and passes through spectacular landscapes. It is Britain's oldest road and it's right on our doorstep, on the edge of the Downs, for everyone to enjoy.

On **Sunday, 7 April**, *The Friends of the Ridgeway* are holding an Open Day at the Court Hill Centre near Wantage. Why not take a walk on The Ridgeway, and enjoy one of Britain's finest views. Visit nearby Segsbury Castle Hillfort, and spot wildlife and spring flowers. Drop in to the Court Hill Centre any time between 10.30am and 3.30pm and find out more about the trail and how you can help to keep it special. Have a snack at the Barn Café. Meet the volunteers who help to preserve the ancient track, and join in a discussion about the future of the National Trails. With exhibitions of art inspired by the Ridgeway landscape and a birds of prey display, there's something for the whole family to enjoy. To get to the Court Hill Centre, take the A338 south from Wantage for 2 miles. Turn right into The Centre just before the crest of Court Hill.

*The Friends of the Ridgeway*, is a charity (number 1107926) which helps to preserve and protect The Ridgeway, to raise awareness of it and promote its quiet enjoyment. [www.ridgewayfriends.org.uk](http://www.ridgewayfriends.org.uk)

## PERSONALISED HAND-MADE CARDS

Can't find the right card for that special occasion? Eunice will make one for you.

Ring her on 868646.

Deadline for copy for the May 2013 edition: **20th April 2013**

Contributions are welcome, preferably by e-mail. Adverts are free!

Charney Chatter can be e-mailed free to anyone giving their e-mail address to the Editor. [roger.watson@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:roger.watson@tiscali.co.uk)

Visit [www.charneybassettpc.org.uk](http://www.charneybassettpc.org.uk) for the very latest village news

## Joyce Ferguson - An Appreciation

It is hard to think that it was only in the last issue of Charney Chatter that Joyce was telling us all how she was settling in to her new home in Letcombe Regis. Typically, she was also offering a general invitation to callers and promising to keep in touch with her friends in the village. Such a promise of continuity made her sudden passing, last month, a shock and a sadness to all who knew her.

Joyce was a key member of the village community for so many years. She always made every possible contribution to events and activities with enthusiasm and creativity, and offered friendship to all who knew her.

Her funeral on 12th February was also a celebration of a life well lived. There were moving tributes from her family and from Tony Wales on behalf of the village. St Peter's Church was full of friends who came to say farewell. As Joyce had wanted, the church was filled with flowers and people wore bright coloured clothes. There were tears but also smiles and laughter as we saw her on her way.

*Editor*

## CHARNEY PANCAKES

Many thanks to all who came to support the Pancake Party on Sat 9<sup>th</sup>. Feb. and to Lucy's and Tracey's families for their help, and Eunice for running the raffle. Contributions amounted to over £200. Approximately half of this total has yet to have gift aid added.

*Mary Daghish*

Visit [www.charneybassettpc.org.uk](http://www.charneybassettpc.org.uk) for the very latest village news

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## Coffee Hour

Coffee Hour every Tuesday in the Village Hall from 10.30 to 11.30 am.

The cost of £1.00 per person includes as much tea or as you like and biscuits too.

**CHAFT Notices****CHAFT 100 CLUB**

January Draw in Village Hall on Tuesday 15 January 2013 during Coffee Hour :-

**First Prize** £25 Number 124 Christine Trotman

**Second prize** £10 Number 18 Joanne c/o Eunice Davies

February Draw held at the meeting of the Charney Army on Thursday 7 February 2013: -

**First prize** £25 Number 115 Colin McGuire

**Second prize** £10 Number 3 Ian of The Chequers

It is approaching 1 April when most memberships are renewable. We will be calling to collect £12 from those who wish to continue their membership for 2013/14. The Charney 100 Club raises funds for the upkeep of the Village Hall and Playing Field. Future expenses will include the replacement of wooden supports in the children's play area.

Mahala and David - Charney 100 Club Organisers

**CHARNEY FEAST 6th JULY 2013**

An open meeting to discuss the Feast will be held in the Village Hall on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April at 07:30pm. All are welcome. Please bring along your ideas for events, stalls and entertainments to help the CHAFT committee now and on the day. We cannot organise the weather but hope for a fine day!

**VILLAGE HALL KEYHOLDERS**

Would all those who have keys for the Hall please let Jane Fry know (868114 [jane.e.fry@btinternet.com](mailto:jane.e.fry@btinternet.com)) before the end of March 2013. CHAFT needs to be able to show an accurate, up to date list when required.

**THE HISTORY OF CHARNEY BASSETT WATERMILL**

On **Tuesday March 5th at 2.30pm**

in Charney Bassett **Village Hall** .

Bruce Hedge will give an illustrated talk on the history of Charney Bassett Watermill and his involvement with it over the last 30 plus years.

Tea will be served.

Marian Gardiner 868 319

**Village Diner**

Come and enjoy a delicious and hearty two course lunch at Buckland Village Hall, every third Wednesday in the month. It's great value at £5.00 per head, and you will be made very welcome by the regulars. Upcoming dates :-

Wednesday 20th March

Wednesday 17 April

Wednesday 15 May

**From your MP - Ed Vaizey**

I recently visited 105.5FM in Swindon, an amazing community radio station that can be heard in the west of the constituency. One of the things they mentioned to me is Weeeuse. This excellent idea means that corporate companies can support organisations such as Swindon 105.5FM, merely through channelling their unwanted IT inventory through the Weeeuse process. Any charitable project which would benefit from a donation of IT equipment, or any institution looking to channel their old hardware through a reuse process, can read more at [www.weeeuse.org](http://www.weeeuse.org). I know that Weeeuse would be delighted to hear from you.

Many people across the constituency are involved in a huge range of voluntary efforts, helping causes they value in lots of different ways. The Charity Commission recently contacted me because they are looking for more people to consider becoming charity trustees so if you are looking for a way to help others, why not consider contacting them? Charities do a huge range of very important work and cover just about every conceivable interest, both locally and nationally so there is bound to be something to interest everyone. In fact, there are 513 registered charities in Wantage and Didcot, and you can see them all at [charity-commission.gov.uk/ShowCharity](http://charity-commission.gov.uk/ShowCharity). There are also charities such as Helen and Douglas House and Creation Theatre, which do great work for people in the constituency but are based just outside.

There is more general information about what is involved at in being a trustee at [trusteesweek.blogspot.co.uk/p/becoming-trustee](http://trusteesweek.blogspot.co.uk/p/becoming-trustee). It may not be as complicated or difficult as you think, so do have a look. If you are interested, you might like to look at the trustee finder service which allows people to enter areas of interest and run a postcode search so they can find opportunities

in their local area: [trusteenet.org.uk/jobs-search](http://trusteenet.org.uk/jobs-search).

If becoming a trustee is more of a commitment than you want to make at the moment, then why not consider volunteering with any one of those 513 local charities?

With many constituents thinking about their summer holidays at the moment, I wanted to draw attention to two key changes which Parliament has recently agreed to the ATOL scheme. The scheme is there to protect people against the risk of their travel company going bust: ensuring they can continue their holiday and return home safely if the company collapses whilst they are away; or providing refunds if they're yet to travel. The first change will widen protection and help people understand when they are protected. Holidays known by the industry as 'Flight-Plus' are now included in the scheme, as well as traditional package holidays. A 'Flight-Plus' booking is one that includes a flight plus accommodation and/or car hire, so long as these separate parts of the holiday are booked with the same company and within a day of each other.

The second change agreed by Parliament saw the introduction of the ATOL certificate; offering consumers greater clarity on how their holiday is protected. Anyone who books an ATOL-protected trip will now receive an ATOL certificate from their travel company as soon as they make any payment. The certificate tells them what is protected, who is protecting it and what to do if something goes wrong. I hope that both of these changes will help constituents to feel more confident that they are properly protected.

As ever please feel free to contact me at the House of Commons, SW1A 0AA, 020 7219 6350 or [vaizeye@parliament.uk](mailto:vaizeye@parliament.uk). Surgery details can be found at [www.vaizey.com](http://www.vaizey.com).