

**PUBLISHED BY CHARNEY  
BASSETT PARISH  
COUNCIL**

Clerk to the Council: Stephen Cowlam  
Phone: 868318  
E-mail: stephencowlam194@btinternet.com  
Editor: John Daglish  
Phone: 868557  
E-mail: daglish@gotadsl.co.uk

**Your councillors:-**

Geoff Rumble (Chairman), Buckland Road 868738  
Mike Cox, (Vice-chairman), New Road 868276  
Jim Harper, Barnfield 868288  
Doug Hughes, Main Street 868438  
Dave Nellist, Buckland Road 686593  
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 May 11th. 2011**

**ADVERTS AND EVENTS**

**WANTED** : assistant editor for the Charney Chatter. If you would like to get involved please contact the editor on 868557.

**Dates For Your Diary**

**Sat.** 14th. May, Hanney Gardening Club, Annual Plant Sale in the Hanney War

Memorial Hall, 10.00am - 12.00. If you have any plants for sale please contact Rosi on 868147

**Patchwork, Quilting and Needlecraft Exhibition**

Come along and view a wonderful collection of these crafts. We have an experienced and talented teacher in the village who is keen to provide patchwork and quilting classes. Come along to **Charney Bassett Village Hall**

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May , 10am – 4pm** and chat to Julie, or in the meantime if you would like any more information about classes, please contact Lynn Brookes: Tel 868471 or email [village.college@yahoo.com](mailto:village.college@yahoo.com). Refreshments will be available.

**Personalised Hand-made Cards**

Can't find the right card for that special occasion?

Eunice will make one for you. Ring her on 868646.

**Buckland Village Diner**

In the Village Hall, Buckland  
The Village Diner provides home-made food from local sources at 12:15 p.m. every third Wednesday in the month.

For £4 you get a two course lunch followed by tea or coffee.  
The next Diner dates are:-  
**Wednesdays May 18th.  
Jun 15th.**

**TABLE TENNIS**

in the Village Hall  
Monday evenings:-

For further information contact David Sibbert on 868734.

Deadline for copy for the July 2011 edition: **20th. June 2011**  
Contributions are welcome, preferably by e-mail. Adverts are free!

# Charney Chatter

**NUMBER 45**

**MAY 2011**

**FROM ORCC NEWS**

**Volunteer and save money!** Are you paying too much for your central heating oil? Here is an opportunity to make sure you don't pay more than the lowest bulk price. Oxfordshire Rural Community Council (ORCC), a charity that gave us a lot of help with the Village Hall project, has set up a not-for-profit enterprise that brings rural communities together to make the most of joint buying power. You can find more details on the ORCC website [www.oxonrcc.org.uk](http://www.oxonrcc.org.uk) by following the link to Bulk Oil Purchasing Scheme. All we need in Charney is a co-ordinator so step forward one volunteer and all the other oil burners will be very grateful!  
Geoff Rumble

ORCC Trading Ltd's new venture has got off to a flying start, with 14 local community co-ordinators and over 100 members in place, already enjoying the benefits of bulk-buying domestic heating oil. Lots of people have asked us about the price of the oil so here's what's happened so far:-  
**In December**, we ordered 2,300 litres for our first couple of members. They paid 52.95p per litre, compared to an average price that day of 56p per litre.  
**In January**, we ordered 18,700 litres for 19 members, who paid 50p per litre compared to an average price that day of 56p per litre.  
**In February**, we ordered 34,450 litres for 36 members, who paid 53.8p per litre compared with an average price that day of 58.1p per litre.  
Between them these members

have saved a massive £3,100. Since we set the scheme up, oil has never been out of the news – first it was the snow and the supply problems, then it was the Office of Fair Trading's interest in oil prices, and now it's the concerns about the effects of the political instability in the Middle East. There is one thing that's fairly certain – the price of oil is far more likely to go up than down, and anything you can do to make it less of a burden has to be a good thing.  
So if your community hasn't yet got a co-ordinator, why not volunteer? There's plenty of information on our website or we can send you an information leaflet. Take the plunge – we'd love to hear from you!  
[www.oxonrcc.org.uk/home/bulk-oil-buying-scheme](http://www.oxonrcc.org.uk/home/bulk-oil-buying-scheme)

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**Coffee Hour**

The sessions continue in the Village Hall on **Tuesday May 3rd.** at 10:30am  
50p. Buys you as much tea or coffee as you can drink — with biscuits too

**May Day Celebrations**

Village Green  
Monday 2nd. May 2011  
2.30pm to 4pm  
Crowning of the May Queen and Maypole Dancing.  
Also tea and cakes

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

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**NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM**


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Welcome to the update for April 2011. **Rogue traders** continue to affect our community and in conjunction with Trading Standards, we are committed to bringing these particularly nasty characters to justice. I had a very interesting conversation with some local residents, where the subject was reporting anyone who was thought to be suspicious in your village, or reporting of anyone trying to sell at the door was imperative. These residents made a point of noting indexes and descriptions which would be vitally important in identifying offenders in the event of a crime taking place. Please call us on 999 or 08458 505 505 if you have any concerns.

In Denchworth a male claiming to be from an electric company approached three homes and although we were called fairly quickly, he had left the village before we could get there, thankfully without extorting money.

The gas, water and electricity companies, and some councils, now have a password system for older and vulnerable customers. Customers give the company a word which is confidential to them and the company. When their representative calls, they will be expected to tell the customer the password to prove they are genuine. Many companies offer special services to help you even more. Please contact your gas, water and electricity suppliers, and any other utility companies to find out more.

Rogue traders can be builders, gardeners, or tarmacers and try to trick you into paying for unnecessary work or charge too much for small jobs. Do not agree to any work being done or sign a contract until after you have talked to someone else. You

should never agree to have work done by someone who is just passing, or take their word that work needs to be done at all.

Do not be pressured into paying them before they do any work. Do not accept any offer from them to drive you to the bank to withdraw the money. If you think work needs to be done, get quotes from other companies (two or three should be enough) and also ask a friend or relative for a recommendation. You can check whether the company is reputable by contacting your trading standards office on 0845 051 0845. Most people who call at your home will be genuine. But sometimes, people turn up unexpectedly, with the intention of tricking their way into people's homes. You should always be careful when someone you don't know calls at your door. They may say they are from the water or gas companies or pretend to be a builder and tell the householder that urgent work is required on the property. They can be convincing and persuasive. Do not assume because the caller is wearing a uniform or has a logo on his clothing that he is genuine. The main aim of these bogus callers is to distract the occupier, get into the home and steal from them. They may ask for a drink of water or to wash their hands. Some may be looking for a lost pet. This crime is called **distraction burglary**. Bogus Callers sometimes work in pairs or even teams. They are often well organised. One will distract the person while the other searches the house for money or other valuables. Don't let them pressure or confuse you. If you think a bogus caller has called at your door, report it to the police immediately and tell

.....*continue on p3*

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**FROM YOUR MP - ED VAIZEY**


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I'm writing this just after the Budget. One of the major issues that people contacted me about in the run up to the Budget was, of course, fuel duty.

Expensive petrol is an unfair burden on families; they need it for the school run, to get to work, and for even more basic needs if they live in a rural area like ours. The costs of running a family car has skyrocketed in recent years, and the recent instability in the Middle East has caused leaps in the price of oil. However, the Chancellor has been able to make things a little easier by reducing the duty that the Government levies on fuel.

The last Government initiated a gradual rise in fuel duty called a fuel duty escalator, which has, so far, increased the price by 3p per litre; the next step was to add another 5p. This Budget has cancelled all escalator rises for the life of this Parliament and instead brought in a Fair Fuel Stabiliser. This will use a tax on the profits of oil production to freeze the duty on oil for a whole year, and even then only raise it in line with inflation.

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**100 CLUB DRAW**


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March	No.	Name	Prize	April	No.	Name	Prize
1st prize	22	Lambert	£25		24	Chris Collins	£25
2nd prize	123	Mike Cox	£10		66	Mike Newman	£10

We would like to thank all our members who have renewed their subscription to the 100 Club. There are currently 122 members in the draw and new members are always welcome. In the last few weeks a total of £1542 has been collected for the coming year with a smaller amount falling due over the coming months. Of this total £575 will be given as prizes for the draw

The Chancellor has also decided to cut fuel duty, outright, by 1 penny per litre, and you should have already seen the effects of this in the petrol stations.

Another Budget measure that will help us in the constituency will be the cut in duty for low-alcohol beers. This will help out pubs that are hard pressed at the moment, especially in rural areas. The cut, which will help pub goers, comes with a rise in the duty on high-alcohol beers which will hurt binge drinkers who give responsible drinkers a bad name.

Finally, the Chancellor himself announced in the Budget speech that he will use some of the money from the Bank Levy to fund the new European Space Centre, based in Harwell, which is very good local news.

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 obtained from [www.vaizey.com](http://www.vaizey.com).

over the next 12 months. The remaining £967 has been given to CHAFT for the running and maintenance of the Village Hall and Field.

Mahala & David  
Charney 100 Club Organisers

Tel: 868593

## LOCAL TRANSPORT IN OXFORDSHIRE

The County Council hosts meetings with Parish Representatives to discuss local transport issues, policy and budgets. These notes cover items from a meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> March this year that are of interest and relevant to our village.

### **Concessionary fares**

As required by the Government, the County Council are taking over the management of the concessionary fares scheme. The key message is that for bus pass holders, nothing has really changed. The District will continue to issue passes until March 2012 and the County can be contacted on 0845 3101111 for any enquiries not relating to the issue of passes. After March 2012, the County will take on all responsibilities.

The new passes are "smart" and you only have to touch the pass on the bus drivers machine to get your ticket. This is primarily to reduce the use of forgeries, which have apparently been a big problem!

The age at which people become eligible for a bus pass is gradually rising, in line with the rise in womens retirement age (which is increasing by one month every two months from April). The fee for a replacement pass is now £10.00 unless the pass has been stolen and you have a crime number from the police.

Bus passes can be used from 9.00am and for dial-a-ride in Oxfordshire. The County will also continue the Companion Pass scheme for people such as carers. Rules in other Counties may be different.

Budgeting for concessionary fares is carried out annually so the current conces-

sions will be reviewed before next financial year (2012/13)

A question was raised about the fact that bus passes do not take account of how long or short a journey is and you cannot get a return ticket. The reason for this is that the agreed payment to the bus companies is based on a complicated set of criteria, devised by central government that attempts to ensure that a bus company is paid as if everyone is a fare payer. This is calculated by analysing the behaviour of actual fare payers.

### **Subsidised bus routes**

The budget for subsidised bus routes has been cut in Oxfordshire by £268,000 but it is not anticipated this will cause a problem. It is hoped that the bus companies will absorb this loss and initially, no cuts in services are planned.

All areas are regularly reviewed and the review for Wantage and Faringdon will be on 11th December which will include the Stanford in the Vale minibus subsidy.

### **Budget cuts**

Areas where cuts have had an effect include the system that has been introduced at bus stops that shows electronically when the next bus is due. There is no capital budget this year and so no new installations will be carried out.

The County had decided to stop issuing bus map guides to save on printing costs. They will still be available to download on-line.

The next meeting will be in August

Geoff Rumble

...continued from p2 them what has happened. The earlier we know that bogus callers are working in the area, the quicker we can investigate. Try to give a description of the person, if they have a vehicle and which direction they left. You can also report bogus callers on-line by visiting [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/tradingstandards](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/tradingstandards) and going to the Doorstep Crime section.

**IF IN ANY DOUBT, KEEP THEM OUT**

## SOUTHMOOR & KINGSTON BAGPUIZE GARDENING CLUB

Our May meeting is on Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30 pm in Southmoor village hall, Draycott Road. Timothy Walker, Director of the Oxford Botanic Garden will be giving us a talk on "A garden from scratch". This should be an amusing and informative evening and will only cost the usual entry fee of £1.50 for members and £2.00 for visitors, who are always welcome.

At the May meeting tickets will also be available for a workshop on flower arranging by Frances Buchan, who is a member of The Flower Arrangers Guild. The workshop will take place on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2011 from 9.00 am to 1.00 pm in the village hall. Tickets will be issued on a first come, first served basis as numbers will be limited to

20 people maximum. Cost will be £10.00 which will include coffee/tea and biscuits. Schedules for the Annual Show should be available at the May meeting. Tickets for the Farm visit in July should also be available at this meeting at a cost of £5.00 per person and the meeting should start at 6.30 pm.

If you haven't attended one of our meetings do think about joining us in May. The entry fee includes a cup of tea or coffee and biscuits and the company is friendly! There is also a sales table of spare plants and you can sign on for any of our visits to interesting gardens.

Doreen Cowan (Treasurer & P.R.)

## SHEEP AND DOGS ....(DON'T MIX)

Happily, most dog owners are thoughtful and considerate members of the community. Recently, however, several residents of Charney Bassett have drawn to my attention two examples where this is not the case. The first concerns dog walkers along the bridle path who have allowed their dogs to worry sheep in the neighbouring fields. It is an offence under the Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953 to allow dogs to worry livestock on agricultural land. This can be particularly distressing for both sheep and farmers at present in the lambing season. Dogs must be on a lead or otherwise "under close control". The second is the practice of at least one dog owner of disposing of

bagged dog waste in the village's public litter bin, and the Church grey bin. The litter bin is intended for litter, not dog waste! The practice is unhygienic and unpleasant, particularly in hot weather. The Parish Council resolved not to install dog bins (these also smell), so take it home with you and dispose of it in your own refuse bin.

Most residents do not own a dog but are generally quite tolerant of those who do.....provided that they behave with consideration!

Stephen Cowlam,  
Clerk to the Parish Council.