

The History of Charney Bassett

AN ISLAND VILLAGE

Web site – Parish Council Presentation

Amanda Graham

13 July 2016

- Key points
- - Go live September when 60% developed
- - Chatter and email system will be used to promote and improve the content
- - Content of existing village website will need to be amended/updated
- - Moderating and quality assurance procedures under consideration
- - Continuity important....having the History Group linked to/managed by the Parish Council
Communications Team is seen as the best way forward

The content can include:

- Text
- Documents (eg PDF, Word)
- Photos/drawings
- Audio files
- Web links

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- Early History
- Recent History
- Buildings and Structures
- Photos
- Resources
- Contact



Charney Bassett and the surrounding area has lots of fascinating history and stories; from the earliest times up to the present day. Some of these are captured here for enjoyment, information and remembrance.

The Charney Bassett History Group

The Starting Point

In early 2014, the Parish Council appointed a communications team to:

- produce the village newsletter 'Charney Chatter' on a monthly (rather than the previous bi-monthly) basis
- develop an email management system to allow the newsletter and any urgent interim messages to be circulated electronically
- assist with the promotion of the recently re-launched Parish Council website.

After a successful introductory period, residents' views were sought on future developments. This resulted in an investigation into how these improved communication channels might be utilised to help record information about the history and past activities of the village.

An exploratory meeting was held in late 2015 followed by an inaugural meeting in January 2016. The attendees decided to form a village history group which would operate on a less formal basis than a Society and utilise the Charney Chatter, email management system and the village website to help promote the Group, record appropriate information and provide a signpost to other sources of relevant information.

What's Happening?

This new website has been launched covering a range of topics.

Work is ongoing and the website will be promoted via regular updates in the Charney Chatter and via the email system.

Your ideas, contributions and comments are needed!

Want to know more about the History Group? Contact Joe Ody joseph.ody192@btinternet.com

Anything for the Website? Contact Amanda Graham charney.history@btinternet.com

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Flint Axe-Head

Cherbury Camp

The Pusey Horn

The Hundred of Ganfield

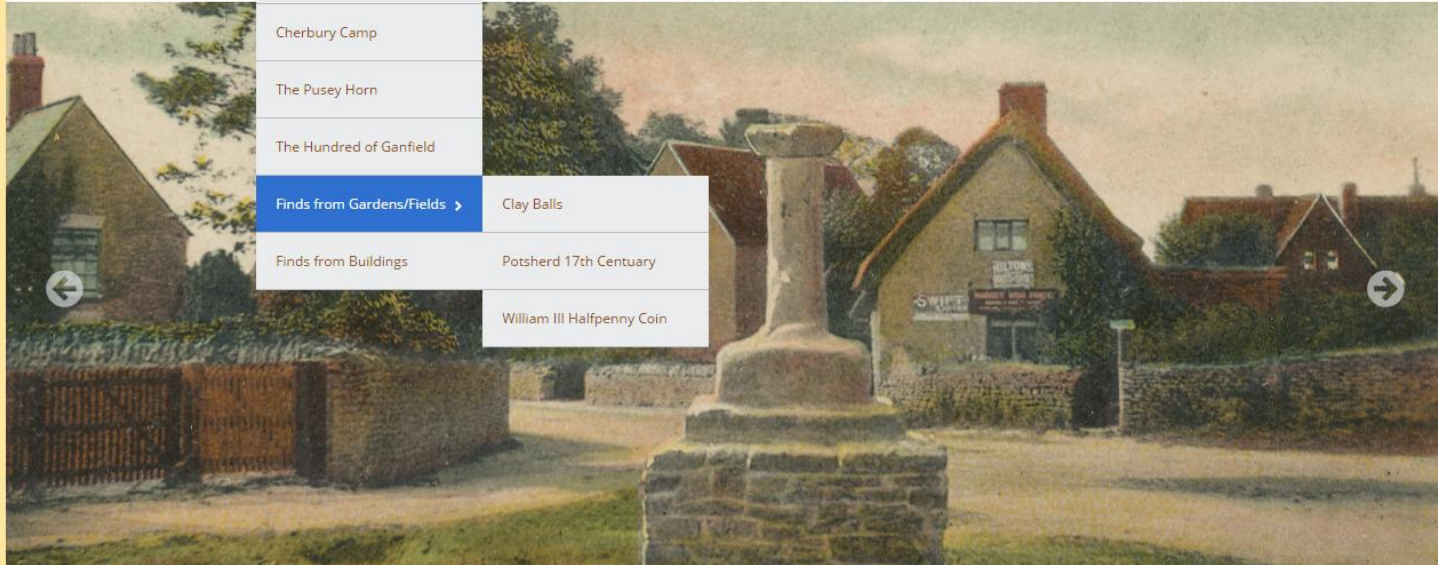
Finds from Gardens/Fields ▶

Clay Balls

Finds from Buildings

Potsherd 17th Century

William III Halfpenny Coin



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Listed Buildings and Monuments

Village Cross

Churches

Inns

The Chequers Inn

Village Hall and Field

The Horn Inn

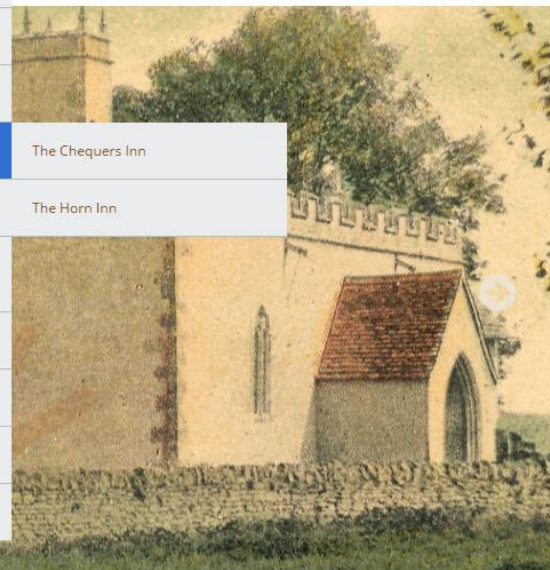
The Charney (Bouverie Pusey) School

The Mill

The Forge, Blacksmith and Smithy

Shops and Post Office

Sheep Wash



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Then and Now

Photo Gallery



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The Chequers June 2016



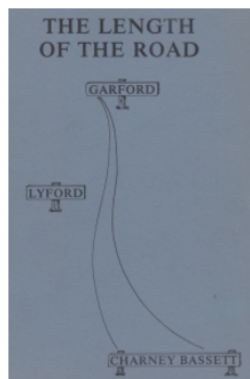
Charney, The Green, Nr. Wantage.



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Books and Personal Memories

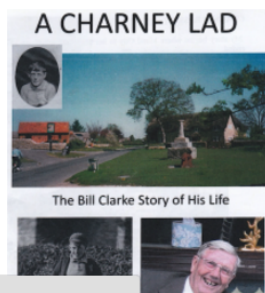


'THE LENGTH OF THE ROAD'

BY MAUD ODY

Born in Garford in 1914, Maud moved to Charney Bassett in 1924 where she spent most of her life until her death in 1990.

This 129 page book is now out of print and is available on loan by emailing joseph.ody192@btinternet.com



'A CHARNEY LAD'

BY BILL CLARKE

Bill lived in Charney Bassett for 80 years before moving to Thame some 15 years ago.



WWII: War on Land

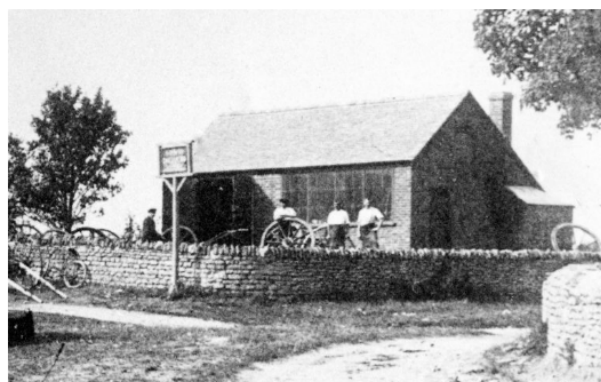
Evidence of the 2nd World War includes the [spigot mortar](#) base near the church wall and a machine gun loop on the wall of Charney Manor garden. A mortar is a device that fires projectiles at low velocities and short ranges. The machine gun loop is for allowing a machine gun to have a certain area of fire from a protected site. It would appear that both these sites are for the protection of the bridge over the river Ock.

The Forge, Blacksmith and Smithy

Nº 23 New Road is the only 'New Road' house whose entrance is not on New Road, the entrance is on Main Street. This house had been for the village blacksmith and next to it was a stone-built forge built in matching style to the gothic type houses. The last blacksmith to live in the house and use the forge was Mr Bill Kerridge, his father had also been the village blacksmith until he retired and his son took over. It ceased being used as a forge some time before 1924 and was subsequently used by Berkshire Council as a storage shed for tools and repair equipment and commonly referred to as 'the Council shed'. It has since been converted to a dwelling 'Forge Cottage'.

Mr Charlie Browning, who lived at 32 New Road (and later in the cottage by the Ock), was an ex-army blacksmith and operated a smithy from a large shed adjoining and in the grounds of The Chequers Inn. With the coming of the Fordson tractors there were fewer horses to shoe and the blacksmith business began to die. The shed was converted to a bungalow (in the late 1990s?) called 'The Old Smithy'.

[Principal source Maud Ody, The Length of the Road P48-49, 86, also A Charney Lad, Bill Clarke P18]



The Smithy

Flint Axe-Head

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 and was loaned to 'Wantage Museum'.

The extract from: [The Oxoniensia website](#) is given below.

[Basil died in 2004 and a seat in his memory is on the triangle of grass adjacent to St Peter's Church. Donated by Nan, his widow, and Peggy his sister].



Next Steps