Chenies Village News

Autumn/Winter 2025

Published by Chenies Parish Council & Chenies Village Society

Chenies Village Society

A social society. Keeping the village informed and arranging fun events.
Chair: Jasmine Lewis (*email via* marcus.chenies@gmail.com)

What's going on in Chenies?

Cricket Club
Fireworks - **Sat 1st Nov**

Red Lion Events
31st Oct Halloween
27th Nov Thanksgiving Quiz
1st Dec Wreath Making 7pm
2nd Dec Christmas Murder Mystery
14th Dec Boogie-Woogie Carols with Chenies Baptist Church

Beacon Lighting - Christmas Eve

Restore Hope
Fireworks - **Sat 8th Nov**
Light Trail - **Wed 26 - Sat 29 Nov, Wed 3 - Sat 6 Dec**

2026 Events
Chenies Golf Day Summer 2026
Further details in Spring.

Baptist Church – Rev Jon Bishop
office@cheniesbaptist.org
www.cheniesbaptist.org

St Michaels C of E – Rev David Whale
rector@cheniesbenefice.org
www.cheniesbenefice.org/st-michaels-chenies

NEXT CVS EVENT





Save the date – booking details to follow soon …

Chenies in Bloom

On 4th Oct a valiant band of volunteers battled very gusty winds to carry out autumn replanting of the baskets & planters, in addition to planting bulbs in the village for us all to enjoy in the spring. A big thank you to Chenies Garden Centre for donating the plants & bulbs, also to the CVS.





In the New Year a small team will be formed to work on strategy for our 2026 entry.
If you would like to be involved, please contact me on jsandom@cheniesparishcouncil.gov.uk

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Message from the Chair – Molly Newton
Welcome to our second Chenies Village News. These will continue as the first edition was so well received. Thanks to Kerry at the Red Lion for printing and to Councillor Jackie Sandom & Mary Kelly for producing it.

Our next meeting is on *19th of November at 8:00 pm in the Sun room at Chenies Baptist Chapel*. We are trying to be much more village inclusive & urge parishioners to attend for the first 15 minutes as this time is specifically set aside for parishioners to raise their concerns. You are then welcome to sit through the rest of the meeting to get a feel for what the Parish Council does.

'Fix My Street, Bucks' is an easy to use website. Please report any potholes, damaged street signs, fly tipping, rubbish, graffiti or blocked drains & include photos. No job can be referred to the Highways team without this report so please do report even if it's already on the website. Some jobs may take time but fly tipping is usually dealt with efficiently.

Speedwatch - Volunteers needed, please contact me on mnewton@cheniesparishcouncil.gov.uk

Bucks Best Kept Village Competition 2025



I am delighted to report that Chenies was awarded a Certificate of Merit this year, scoring an excellent 180 points out of a possible 200. We were pipped at the post by Cublington who won with 184 points.

Chenies and Latimer Produce Show







This year's show was a great success, with 372 entries and several new exhibitors. We raised over £700, with £100 to Chenies School and £75 to the school gardening club; the remaining money going to this year's nominated charity The National Eczema Society for research into this under-reported but debilitating condition. Huge thanks to the Committee, the Red Lion and other advertisers, raffle contributors, the School and volunteers who make the show possible and most of all to Kate Little whose fantastic raffle hampers raised a whopping £730. Put next year's date in your diary -12th September 2026- and support the show to keep this village tradition going- you may even win a cup!

Chenies Parish Council - Chair: Cllr Molly Newton, Vice Chair: Cllr Charles MacLeod-Matthews
Councillors: Cllr Darrell Lewis, Cllr Jackie Sandom, Cllr Paddy Smith, Parish Clerk: Paul Messenger
The secure village website is maintained by the Parish Council:- https://cheniesparishcouncil.gov.uk
The Parish Council noticeboard is in the Bus Shelter at the Village Green.

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River Chess in Chenies



Living in Chenies we are blessed with the River Chess flowing through our Parish. The Chess is one of 250 chalk streams in the world, a globally rare habitat. The river is why the valley has had a long history of human habitation dating back to the Neolithic. It supplies a reliable source of drinking water and for more than 1000 years it has been harnessed to power the many mills along its length.

More recently the clean water has been used to grow watercress and to flood the water meadows to grow hay for grazing livestock.

In more recent years the river has been under threat from over abstraction to supply drinking water and pollution from sewage and runoff. With this in mind a group of concerned residents established the **River Chess Association** back in 2009 to form a lobby group to address these issues. It takes time to get the establishment to move but we have had some significant wins over the years. The rate of abstraction has been reduced by 7 million litres per day with further reductions planned in the next few years. Recent investment in the Chesham Sewage Treatment Works has seen capacity increased by 40% and phosphate levels in the effluent reduced from 2.00ppm to 0.25ppm.

We are still to be convinced that Chesham Sewage Treatment Works is working to plan but we are moving in the right direction, in recent years flows have been more reliable and an extensive programme of work on improving the river corridor habitat is showing tangible results.

A healthy chalk river requires three critical elements, reliable water flow, clean water and good habitat, much of this has been achieved in recent years.







Fish numbers have improved; water voles are now found along the length of the Chess from Rickmansworth to the Centre of Chesham. Since 2019 we have had a family of otters living on the Chess.

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On 7th October 2025 we had the Environment Agency surveying fish numbers down at Sarratt. We had a great result, not only excellent numbers of Brown Trout of multiple age groups but also adult and juvenile grayling showing that the reintroduction of this species started in 2020 has been successful.
We still need to work on reducing pollution, improving flow is always key, so we will need a wet winter to recharge the aquifer that supplies water to the Chess and finally working and engaging with all stakeholders is critical.

Paul Jennings

Chiltern Chalk Streams Project: "Slow the Flow" Comes to Chenies

Chiltern Chalk Streams Project are undertaking an exciting programme with Chenies School and village. "Slow the Flow" aims to raise awareness of the River Chess, where our water supply comes from and where our wastewater ends up. The project has already started by installing water saving devices at the school to reduce water consumption. There are plans for installing rainwater planters (SuDS) and also running an education programme at the school. The CCSP team is keen to encourage the whole village to take part by thinking about their water use at home and exploring ways to help conserve the River Chess.

Chenies History Group

This was created to capture and make available historical information already held and to do further research regarding the social history of former Chenies residents over the last couple of centuries. A significant amount of material has been identified and listed.

We are now building a new website to input all this data - 'chenieshistory.org'.
Once 'populated' with material, the CVS has offered to support with ongoing running costs, making it a fascinating and useful site for everyone to access.
Rachel Bishop has kindly offered to help us get the website up and running and ready for content input as she has Wordpress experience.

We need a storage place for all the physical materials that is secure and dry and accessible for villagers to view. Any suggestions where we could store this?

More information about the History Group will be sent out in a separate email and will also be included on the Chenies Village Website.
For further information contact Sandy & Andy Homewood:
Tel 07881 475360 / 07516 238501,
email: chenieshistory@yahoo.com

www.facebook.com/groups/174244666583516/

Residents can also be added to the village email group. Please email marcus.chenies@gmail.com to be added.
If you don't do email or social media & would like any updates or information, please leave a letter addressed to Jasmine Lewis or Jackie Sandom at the Red Lion pub giving your contact details.