

CHARLTON LINK

Village News for the People of Newbottle & Charlton

ISSUE 402 SEPTEMBER 2022

*Funded by the Parochial Church Council, Newbottle & Charlton Parish Council
and our advertisers*

Fun and fundraising at the Village Fete

A huge thank you and 'well done' to all the stall holders, supporters and visitors who made this year's Fete a tremendous success. Despite many people being on holiday and stall numbers down, over £4000 was raised for St James' Church, Newbottle, with the new contactless token system helping those short of cash.

The tennis tournament rolled along into the evening with Hannah Drewry and Jordan Robinson crowned champions. Congratulations also go to the raffle winners: Kathryn Cowley, Claudia, David Morgan, Sue Church, Ann Marie Cryer, Angela Redrup.

*****Mystery winner of Pudding Raffle*****

Do you know Caroline who entered the Pudding Raffle? She won one of the best prizes but there's no answer at the Banbury landline number she gave. Please come forward Caroline - it will be to your advantage! Contact Eleanor on 07803 084350.

Save the date... Saturday 15th July 2023 is the date for next year's Fete, get involved if you can!



See the Link in colour at www.charltonandnewbottle.com

Charlton Link Editor: Julia Rands, juliarands@hotmail.com 01295 812446

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Thank you to everyone who supported the Summer Fete, it was wonderful to see so many people there, and thank you too to those who did all the essential but often hidden jobs, those who ran stalls, baked cakes and organised the event. It was a lovely occasion.

With September's arrival we are beginning to look towards the autumn. In church this means that preparations are underway for our Harvest Festival Family Service. This will take place at 9.30am on Sunday 25th September. Weather permitting, we will begin the service outdoors at the grain store in Newbottle Road and then walk to church. Do come along, it will be a wonderful opportunity to give thanks for the bounty of God's creation in the beautiful countryside that surrounds us.

Looking further ahead, we will be holding an All Souls service at 4pm on Sunday 6th November. All Souls is the season in the church's calendar when we remember our loved ones who have died. In conversations over the last two years, and especially during the pandemic, many people expressed a wish to have a specific occasion to remember loved ones. For some that has been a private moment in church, and of course you are always welcome to visit the church, which is open every day. However, for some a more formal occasion would be welcome, and so we have decided to hold this service. If you wish us to remember someone by name during the service please do drop me a line at the email address below, or phone the Vicarage. All are welcome to come along to what will be a service of reflection and prayer.

With my best wishes,

Father Matthew

Tel. 811364

email: fathermatthew.r@icloud.com

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

EVERY SUNDAY IN CHURCH AT 9.30AM

THURSDAY 1st & 15th SEPTEMBER AT 9.30AM

AN INFORMAL SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION AT 7 CARTWRIGHT ROAD,
FOLLOWED BY REFRESHMENTS

SUNDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER AT 9.30AM: HARVEST FESTIVAL FAMILY
SERVICE BEGINNING AT THE GRAIN STORE, NEWBOTTLE ROAD

SUNDAY 6TH NOVEMBER AT 4PM IN CHURCH: ALL SOULS SERVICE

ALL ARE WELCOME

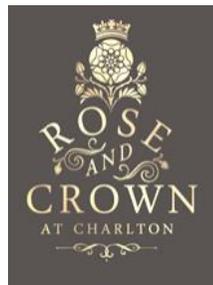
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Shop Survey — The Results Are In

As you'll be aware the village shop and post office has now closed. Back in May we asked local residents to complete a survey about their needs and future ideas for a village shop and/or post office service. We were really overwhelmed by the response with 83 households completing the survey so we thought we'd briefly share some of the information we gathered.

Before we do though it should be noted that the shop on Main Street was a private business. Whilst the building has a legal covenant on it that means that it must remain a dual residence and retail premise, there is no obligation that it must operate as a stores/post office. The Post Office Ltd has made a number of changes over recent years but any model of operation still has to comply with their regulations and processes. There is also nothing to prevent a shop opening at a different location in the village should one become apparent and relevant permissions be granted.

The vast majority of respondents used the shop on a weekly basis for Post Office services, the essentials and for store cupboard emergencies. It was also a useful base for village life, selling tickets and displaying posters and local information. Mornings and afternoons were the most popular times and visits were spread evenly across the week with the exception of Sundays.

Looking to future options, there was a lot of support for similar services to what had been offered but many, many people suggested a café – with an emphasis on 'good' coffee, and more local fresh produce. Evenley, Sulgrave and Whittlebury were all cited as shop examples that people liked – though some expressed concerns at potentially high prices. Respondents expressed sadness at losing the shop and concern for residents who did not drive so perhaps there is the opportunity for a way to 'borrow a cup of sugar' locally?

The idea of a community run shop was roundly supported – but not with offers of volunteering to run it. Understandably people had limitations on their time or were concerned about the reliability of this model so, from the survey, this didn't feel a viable plan to pursue for now. An informal group of residents gathered to look at options when the closure was first announced, if you'd like to join this group or have an idea please email charltonshopfuture@gmail.com

Finally, we'd like to express our thanks to the previous managers of the shop and Post Office. We're really very lucky to have had such a great resource in the village for so long.

Nature notes

We have now been through two heatwaves and at last had half an inch of rain yesterday. Perhaps the drought-stricken graveyard that is the garden might eventually recover. It has been interesting to see which plants have really not minded the heat at all. I think in this village the hollyhocks have been the winners: ours grew to enormous heights and flowered their heads off, not showing any signs of flagging at all, though the heat does make all flowers go over more quickly. Further afield, we noticed that none of our native evergreens seem to have flagged – holly, box and yew didn't seem to show any signs of distress, whereas the sycamores along the lane to Newbottle were really drooping at the time of the greatest heat. Many trees have been dropping leaves as though autumn had come early, giving extra layers of crunchiness underfoot where the grass should be soft, yielding and green. Trees drop their leaves as a defensive mechanism, as fewer leaves mean less transpiration of moisture into the atmosphere.

We have given a bit of water (we have a lot of waterbutts) to the dahlias, and they have survived, but curiously some of the flowers have had the colour quite bleached out by the heat. 'Gerrie Hoek' which is a beautiful shell pink usually, produced flowers which were a pale washed out cream, and the really red ones came out a wishy-washy orange. But it hasn't taken them long to recover.

The RHS and other gardening experts are very keen that everyone should plant drought-tolerant plants, but for anyone gardening on heavy soil this is a real problem. Climate change does not only mean that we are likely to have recurring killer-heatwaves such as the ones in August, but more generally we are likely to have wetter and warmer winters. Drought-tolerant plants tend not to like having wet feet in the winter, so it is no advantage to gardeners to have plants which survive and thrive on searing heat in the summer, if they all succumb to sogginess in the winter. Here we are on very sandy free-draining soil so it is not a problem.

It's hard to know at the moment what we will have lost in the garden though we suspect that we shall have far fewer primroses in the spring. Some plants looking very dead may yet respring from the root, as we hope the grass will. But there will certainly be great losses in our wildlife. A neighbour reported a swallows' nest with five dead baby birds in it: this was under the roof of a garage and the poor little things were probably cooked. Also they found a dead mole on the grass: the ground has been baked so hard that it presumably couldn't tunnel through and feed on the earthworms which are its usual prey.

We feel sorry for farmers – what are the stock feeding on with all the pasture looking like the Sahara desert? At least there was no problem with wet weather for getting the harvest in.

We've had a hummingbird-hawkmoth in the garden which was exciting: these really do look like a hummingbird as they hover in front of flowers with their very long proboscis probing them for their nectar. Usually it goes for the valerian flowers but there were none this time so it was trying everything. We were less excited when we took the puppy down the garden rather late one evening and met two young badgers in the orchard. They were scrumping our windfall apples, which we don't begrudge them. If only they weren't so destructive in the garden we might even like to see them.

Deborah and Paul Hayter



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Charlton Playing Field

The Parish Council has authorised a sum of £3,000 to the Playing Field which will be added to existing funds to enable the work to be started in September on the perimeter path.

Also at the Parish Council meeting in July, it was agreed to give the current working party more accountability for the continued development of the facilities.

We will be focussing on working more collaboratively with Brackley Athletics and grant applications. If you would like to support in any way please contact charltonplayingfields@yahoo.com

New rural centre at Forceleap Farm

We are very excited to announce that the builders are nearing the end of construction and so we will be launching a new centre at Forceleap Farm this Autumn. The centre will have some small offices/studio units to rent as well as a venue with all the facilities for hosting groups.

So, we are hoping to develop courses and events with a focus on promoting wellbeing and have an exciting space to rent out to local people with a strong link to the farm and wider environment. The centre will be in the old farmyard at Forceleap, which has been converted from derelict buildings into some very attractive spaces. This is the start of an exciting journey, and we are very keen to make sure local people feel part of it and able to contribute their ideas into how it develops.

We will be hosting an open day (once construction is complete) for local people to come and have a look at what we have done, and we hope you will all bring your ideas on what we should or could be doing with this exciting new space. Date TBC.



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