

CHARLTON LINK

Village News for the People of Newbottle & Charlton

ISSUE 408 MARCH 2023

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Coronation Bank Holiday Weekend

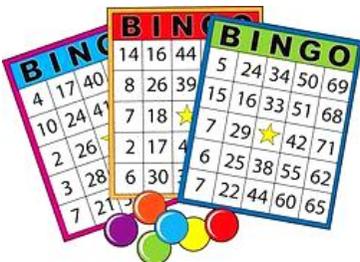
The King's Coronation is on Saturday 6 May and there is an additional Bank Holiday on Monday 8 May. A key theme running through the Coronation weekend is "The Big Help Out" which hopes to use volunteering to bring communities together and create a lasting volunteering legacy from the Coronation Weekend.



A cornerstone of our village celebrations that weekend will be the Charlton Big Bike Ride on Sunday 7 May.

There will be a meeting to discuss our village plans for the King's Coronation weekend on **Monday 6th March, 7 p.m.** in the Village Hall. All are welcome to share their thoughts and ideas for the weekend.

FAMILY BINGO NIGHT - 25TH MARCH



To raise more funds for the Playing Field Project, we're excited to be hosting a **Family Bingo Night at the Village Hall at 5.30pm on Saturday 25th March.**

More details to come on our Charlton Playing Field Facebook Page, so please come along for a fun night!

Read the Link in colour at www.charltonandnewbottle.com

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

Charlton Pantomime 2023

Jack and the Beanstalk was a huge success, with four of the five performances totally SOLD OUT! Thank you for this fabulous support everyone!

The audiences really enjoyed the Panto, one audience member said: "it's the funniest and rudest thing I have seen in ages!"



Our fundraising target is £3k which will go towards redecorating the hall. Check out next month's Link for a full report.

Charlton Crew

Thank you to everyone that has volunteered to join the WhatsApp group. This group will be supporting with ad hoc jobs primarily in the playing field as we continue the development. If you would like to be included – speak to Della or email charltonplayingfields@yahoo.com

Charlton Conservation Volunteers

Do you spend time out in the countryside around Charlton? Do you wonder about the health our local countryside? What exciting species we have got, and what is missing? Would you like to be involved in trying to increase biodiversity around Charlton and Newbottle, for us all to enjoy? If so, then this is for you!

I am hoping to bring together a group of enthusiastic local volunteers, initially to do a baseline survey in the spring. We would be looking at the countryside around the village at a time when the farm is about to embark on our biggest and most ambitious environmental stewardship scheme ever. It is not just about maintaining the status quo but identifying problems and preventing further decline. We aim to improve existing and create new habitats to increase biodiversity.

A good baseline is imperative for the project to then measure how successful our interventions are. The survey will include activities like mapping areas, carrying out bird counts and disturbance surveys. It is a great opportunity to get involved, learn a lot and make friends and contribute to our local countryside!

Please let me know if you are interested. I am tentatively planning to hold a meeting to explain things further on Tuesday 21st March at 7pm at the pub. All are welcome.

Alice Townsend, alice@newbottleestate.com

Holy Week and Easter is the most important time in the Christian calendar. This year it falls between 2nd and 9th April. During that week, on the Thursday before His crucifixion, the day we now call Maundy Thursday, Jesus gathered His followers together for the Last Supper. Not only did they share a meal together but He also washed their feet. It's perhaps hard for us to appreciate the significance of this act. However, in a warm dusty land, where walking long distances was common, this was a great act of care and love. It was an illustration of Jesus' new commandment to His disciples to love one another as He loved them. Maundy comes from the Latin word for commandment.

This new commandment is celebrated in many ceremonies that have become associated with Holy Week. This year there will be renewed interest in the Maundy Money service, which will take place at York Minister. His Majesty the King will, for the first time as Monarch, give a gift of money to 74 people chosen for their service to the local community. The number of recipients matches the King's age and the gift of money has, since the time of Elizabeth I, stood as a token of love instead of foot washing. It is also a reminder that all earthly powers are subject to God and His commandment.

To live by this commandment and let love be the source of our thoughts, words and actions is to serve others in this life, but Christians also believe it is preparation for the life to come where we hope to be in the eternal presence of God, who is love.

We will have various services to mark Holy Week and Easter and you are most welcome to come along.

Looking further ahead do keep Sunday 14th May free. On that day we will have an outdoor family service to mark Rogation Sunday at 9.30am, followed by refreshments. This old tradition of asking for God's blessing on agriculture is a wonderful way to pause and take in the beauty of creation. We shall be praying for good weather in the meantime!

With my best wishes,

Father Matthew

Tel. 811364, email: fathermatthew.r@icloud.com

Facebook: St James's Church, Newbottle & Charlton

Website: <https://newbottlechurch.weebly.com>

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

EVERY SUNDAY IN CHURCH AT 9.30AM

MOTHERING SUNDAY FAMILY SERVICE: 9.30AM 19TH MARCH

**PALM SUNDAY FAMILY SERVICE STARTING AT THE MEMORIAL HALL CAR PARK:
9.30AM 2ND APRIL**

MAUNDY THURSDAY HOLY COMMUNION: 9.30AM 6TH APRIL

GOOD FRIDAY MEDITATION & REFLECTION: 2PM 7TH APRIL

EASTER DAY HOLY COMMUNION: 9.30AM 9TH APRIL

THURSDAY 9th MARCH (AND FORTNIGHTLY THEREAFTER) AT 9.30AM:
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Newbottle & Charlton School Update

Last month we celebrated Safer Internet Day. Some of the pupils led our assemblies to the children based around the topic 'Want to Talk About It!' They are a group of children and adults that make up our STEM committee in school and they help to spread the love and enthusiasm for all STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) in school. We talked with others about the positive and negative things they may see when they are online. Some of them also did a survey at lunch time about what they like doing online and for how long. We found out the main thing children like to do online is watch videos and play games.



It was lovely to see many of you at the Charlton Panto this year and I was super impressed with the commitment from members of our school community to put on a great show. They will be brilliant! A big well done to Toby, Mikey, Jasmine, Charlotte, Jack, Florence R and Milo for being great villagers, minions and a chicken; and to Ms Rowe (Year 3 and 4 Class teacher) for her great performance as Mother Nature! Well done to all the cast and crew involved!

Coming up on Thursday 3rd March is World Book Day - Children will be coming into school dressed as their favourite book character or dressed in pyjamas with a cuddly toy as if they are ready to listen to a good book at bed time. We will be listening to lots of great stories and parents will be invited in to share a story. We are also opening our school library for families from school to get books out, which we hope will continue to support children reading books for enjoyment.

We have a School Easter service on Friday 31st March at 9:30am, which you are more than welcome to join us at St James' Newbottle.

Hope you have a good March!

Mr Smith, Headteacher

Nature Notes

We are having some lovely warm sunny weather at the moment, though we have had some sharp frosts and quite thick fog some mornings. We have a gorgeous display of snowdrops and they manage to come up through ground which is frozen hard. They contain their own 'anti-freeze' proteins which keep the flow of water and nutrients moving through the plants, even down to -32°C. Freezing temperatures are vital to many overwintering plants, as spells of frost initiate a 'diapause', causing bulbs to break glucose into smaller molecules that lower their freezing point. Different species of plants with varying flowering times need differing spells of chilling: lengthening days and increasing warmth break dormancy and this causes the carbohydrates in the bulbs to turn to sugars which enable the plant to push shoots up to the surface.

Native primroses need a cold period before they react to spring (though we have had a few out in the garden for weeks), and also yellow rattle seeds need a three-month season of chilling below five degrees before they begin to germinate in March. This annual plant, (called Yellow Rattle because its flowers are yellow and when the seeds develop they rattle in their inflated seed cases), is an important species for old fashioned hay-meadows as it is semi-parasitic on grasses thereby allowing other more floriferous plants to out-compete the vigorous grasses. Anyone who is following the current fashion for growing a 'meadow' instead of a lawn would do well to encourage yellow rattle as it does help the flowers to get going.

We did the Big Garden Bird Watch but it was a little disappointing for us as we had very few birds and nothing out of the ordinary. We normally have several jackdaws about but they seemed to absent themselves for the whole of the BGBW weekend. Bird song is getting louder as spring gets under way and we have a very insistent Great Tit in the garden with its 'teacher teacher' call, the second syllable lower than the first.

Butterfly Conservation produced a report at the beginning of February with the alarming news that 80% of butterflies in the UK have declined since the 1970s. Anyone who can remember the countryside as far back as the 1960s will know this. We can remember buddleia bushes covered with butterflies with clouds flying up as we passed. Now we are lucky to count them on the fingers of one hand.

Loss like this is very concerning as butterflies are a visible part of the UK ecosystem and their precipitous decline is indicative of a much wider biodiversity crisis. All those creepy-crawlies, spiders, beetles and bugs, insects of all kinds, are part of the food web and the decrease in their populations – what we call 'Insectageddon' – will affect all of the natural world, including us.

Butterflies that rely on particular habitats and plant species have declined most dramatically, such as the Brown Hairstreak which breeds on the young growth of blackthorn in hedges and scrub: the eggs are at risk from annual flailing of hedges, and the Brown Hairstreak has a very limited range. There is some good news: some very specific targeted interventions, such as the reintroduction of the Large Blue from Europe, have been successful. This butterfly has a very specific set of needs, as its life-cycle involves spending most of the year within the nests of red ants, where the larvae feed on the ant grubs; and the red ants can only survive in grassland that is managed in a particular way. This butterfly had always been rare and became extinct in the UK in 1979, but the reintroduction has worked and they are doing well.

Deborah and Paul Hayter

PLAYING FIELD UPDATE

Thank you to all that attended the **Quiz Night**, and our hosts, The Rose & Crown. It was another great fundraiser, reaching £225. A rematch will take place on **Tuesday 18th April** so don't forget to register your team at charltonplayingfields@yahoo.com

Last month we were excited to receive an updated copy of the lease (we requested a couple of amendments to enable us to qualify for funding requirements). Charlton Playing Field HQ are working hard to kick off two major funding applications.

Margaret (Marnie) Cave passed away on 12th January, aged 93



She was born in Charlton, and spent almost all of her life in the village. She was born an Adams, one of a brood of eight, and lived on Farthinghoe Road when they were the 'new' council houses. She told of seeing the night sky lit by Coventry burning as a child in the Second World War, and of catching grass snakes in jam jars for the men stationed at the Hinton Airfield to put in their friends' beds. She remembered being paid pennies to sleep out to scare birds off the cherries for a local farmer, and of trays of sweet apples for Christmas treats.

She married and built a new home with her husband Ron Cave on Brackley Rd and stayed there for 60 years, creating a beautiful and fruitful garden from a bit of field. After raising her own family, she worked as a dinner lady and playground supervisor at the school (grown since she attended) and enjoyed passing on games and helping a new generation to begin gardening.

She knew the countryside around Charlton intimately, the history of fields and farms as well as families, able to name trees and birds and flowers, and continuing to delight in the natural world around her even as her access to it declined.

“When an elder dies, a library burns to the ground.”

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