

CHARLTON LINK

Village News for the People of Newbottle & Charlton



ISSUE 374 APRIL 2020

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

COVID 19 Support in our community

On Facebook, we have had a great response from our local community with many people offering to help during the outbreak of COVID 19. It is important we all look after each other during these uncertain times. Fill this form in and swap with your immediate neighbours.

If you have received a note like this and are self-isolated please contact your neighbours and ask for help. You can also post on our local Charlton Chat Facebook page. If you do not have immediate neighbours who can help or other acquaintances in the village you can contact the Parish Council on newbottleparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk with your request.

HELLO! If you are self-isolating, I can help.

My name is
.....

I live locally at
.....

My phone number is
.....

If you are self-isolating due to COVID-19 I can help with:

<input type="checkbox"/> Picking up shopping	<input type="checkbox"/> Posting mail
<input type="checkbox"/> A friendly phone call	<input type="checkbox"/> Urgent supplies

Just call or text me and I'll do my best to help you (for free!)

Coronavirus is contagious. Please take every precaution to ensure you are spreading only kindness. Avoid physical contact (2m distance). Wash your hands regularly. Items should be left on your doorstep. **#ViralKindness**

www.charltonandnewbottle.com

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

Newbottle Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting, Charlton Memorial Hall Monday 20th April 2020

Unfortunately this meeting has been postponed. It is hoped it will be held later in May, depending on how the Covid-19 situation continues to unfold.

The Parish Council Meeting to be held on Monday 16 March 2020 was also postponed.

Theresa Goss (Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to the Parish Council)
Contact: newbottleparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk or 01295 710965 during normal office hours.



The village Panto of "The pied Piper of Hamelin" was a great success. Sold out every night but Wednesday, with enthusiastic crowds attending. It raised £2,851 for Charlton Memorial Hall funds, which is truly fabulous. It takes 60 people to put on the panto and it was great to see the village get together in support. Thank you all.

We saw new faces joining the team too, and we are pleased to announce that the panto will be safe for its next outing in 2022. A director has already stepped forward, and we think they know what they have let themselves in for...!



Newbottle & Charlton School Update

We had a super time earlier on this month with World Book Day. Costumes and characters looked fabulous and this year we strongly encouraged recycled and reused outfits. Children in Birch (Year 5 & 6) shared a story with other children and they did some super reading that was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Classes also enjoyed completing their own activities on the day too.



We celebrated Science and Engineering Week with the theme 'Our Diverse Planet' - a variety of events and activities were enjoyed by all. Zoolab visited with a selection of creepy crawlies for the children to look at, touch and hold. Mr Smith led a launch assembly and included science into our daily gatherings. We held a science competition where all children carried out a science investigation in small groups and experienced a

full write up with predictions and conclusions!

I have written this article on the eve of all schools shutting. This is a strange and unprecedented time and something that we have never had to face before. The long term effects and impact of this virus are unknown but as a school we have been working hard to keep a normal stable environment for the children. We have prepared activities for the children to ensure that whilst at home, learning isn't forgotten (although the teaching may be absent), as well as activities that keep the mind and body active!



Here are two puzzles for you to have a go at:

Find as many sets of triplets as possible which add up to 40

34	15	4	36
40	1	11	14
33	31	2	5
3	32	35	37

BOGGLE

M	A	P	O
E	T	E	R
D	E	N	I
L	D	H	C

Points
3 letters = 1 point
4 letters = 1 point
5 letters = 2 points
6 letters = 3 points
7 letters = 5 points
8 letters = 9 points



Mrs Smith, Head Teacher

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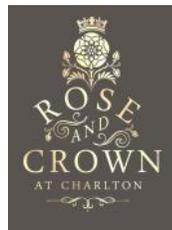
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(see page 7)**

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CHURCH

<https://newbottlechurch.weebly.com>

All of a sudden we find ourselves in changed and difficult times. Old routines have gone for most, if not all, of us.

I am particularly aware of the risk of loneliness and anxiety, and difficulties meeting practical needs, like collecting shopping. Please contact me at the vicarage if you need help, or just want to talk.

In the church we, in common with all parishes up and down the land, have been instructed to suspend all public worship until further notice. However, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York have asked clergy to keep their church buildings open, and we intend to do that at St James. You are welcome to go in and pray, or simply collect your thoughts, in itself peaceful atmosphere. If you do please observe the latest guidance from the government on social distancing and avoid crowding together.

The archbishops have also asked that clergy continue to privately pray the services of Morning and Evening Prayer. I will be doing that and will be praying for all those who are suffering in any way as a consequence of the Coronavirus, and for the wellbeing of everyone in the parish. If you have something or somebody in particular that you would like me to include in my prayers then do contact me at the vicarage on 811364 or by email at fathermatthew.r@icloud.com.

Of course praying is something we can all do, at anytime, whether we are 'old hands' at it, or have never prayed before. Here is a prayer for us to use in the current situation.

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy. Sustain and support the anxious, be with those who care for the sick, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may find comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

With my prayers and good wishes,

Fr Matthew



Nature Notes

At the time of writing we are all in lockdown and facing an extraordinary few weeks or months of social isolation. We were cheered this morning by the picture and message in the newspaper from David Hockney. He had done an Ipad sketch of daffodils and sent it to news outlets with the message 'They can't cancel spring'. Spring is here: no-one can stop it, and no-one can prevent us from enjoying it. We are lucky to be in the country where we can all still get outside and walk – out in the fresh air is the healthiest place to be. We are fortunate in having some good public footpaths here and a network of paths to take us further afield. A few years ago we produced a leaflet showing all the walks around Charlton and they are available (free) from the shop. There are signs of spring to notice: there are primroses, and white and purple violets are beginning to make a show. The Mirabelle plums in the Village Hall playground have been covered with blossom, as has the Blackthorn in the hedges.

It is worth looking closely at ash trees at the moment: during the winter ashes are easily identified as they have distinctive matt black buds along their silvery-grey twigs. At this time of year the buds swell and turn into a cluster of small black rounds, a bit like a blackberry, before bursting forth into tiny yellow flowers to shed their trillions of pollen dust to the winds.

We have blossom on our one apricot tree which is hopeful, but we have hardly ever had apricots from it. Apricots flower so early that they are very susceptible to late frosts and so we watch the weather forecast anxiously. Traditionally they have always been planted against the south walls of houses to give them some protection, as in Aynho, the 'apricot village'.

The winter has been so wet and warm that everything is ahead – the daffodils will all be over by Easter – and this brings danger for all the fruit trees. Everything is bursting forth and is then highly likely to be damaged by the odd late frost. Not that late, really: gardeners will know that in this area in the past no-one would think of putting out tender bedding for the summer until at least mid-May because there was a risk of frost until then.

It was reassuring, at this time when all insect populations are declining, to hear the hum of bees working on a sunny day. The bumblebees of various kinds are always the first to be out, but we have seen honey bees as well, feeding on the early crocuses and loving an early sweet-scented clematis.

Deer are doing well around here: we saw a herd of nine fallow deer just two fields away from Charlton towards Brackley. It is always lovely to see them, but at a time when we are all conscious of the need to plant and nurture more trees, for carbon capture and storage, we also know that deer are horribly destructive of young trees.

Deborah and Paul Hayter

**Pubs and other local businesses are really struggling
in these uncertain times.**

**We are open for eat-in or take-away meals and will
continue to serve our community the best we can.**

Thank you for your continued support.



The Rose and Crown Take Away Menu

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