

CHARLTON LINK

Village News for the People of Newbottle & Charlton

ISSUE 397 APRIL 2022

*Funded by the Parochial Church Council, Newbottle & Charlton Parish Council
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Charlton Easter Treasure Hunt

Charlton Panto Players are once again organising an Easter themed Treasure Hunt for children around the village in April. Look for clues posted around the village to spell a word.



The Hunt will run from **28th March to 13th April**. An Easter egg will be hand delivered at Easter for any winning entries. Entry forms are available from the shop.

Have fun!

The Future of the Village Shop and Post Office

Wednesday 6th April at 7.30pm at the Memorial Hall

Following an initial emergency meeting on 2nd March, there will be a meeting to discuss potential options for having a Village Shop and/or Post Office service in the future, as the current operators are finishing their contract at the end of May.

We are hoping that representatives from the Plunkett Foundation (which advises on community enterprises) and the Post Office will be able to come to speak to us. If you want to see these services continue in the future, please come along to the meeting on 6th April.

www.charltonandnewbottle.com

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#Justice4Harry

Easter is still quite an understated festival in this country. Unlike Christmas, the shops, pubs and restaurants are not generally filled with those intent on celebrating the season.

In many other countries the picture is very different. Where Eastern Orthodox Christianity is followed, the Easter festivities are loud and long. Starting on Easter Eve, that is the Saturday evening before Easter Day, the streets will fill with revellers, and the air will be scented with traditional Easter dishes of lamb, breads and pastries, and illuminated by fireworks. If you've ever spent Easter in the rural parts of Greece, or the Balkans, you may well have encountered this wonderful party atmosphere.

Despite our more reserved English celebrations there is something very special about our humble chocolate Easter egg. Traditionally it is hollow, and this detail is crucial, as it represents the empty tomb after Christ has risen from the dead. For some this is incredible, almost a stumbling block to faith. We may suppose that in the modern world there is now no place for belief in the Resurrection. Yet those doubts are not new. They were held and tested by Jesus' first followers, especially 'doubting' Thomas. In the end belief overcame doubt, and it's that belief that fills the streets of Greece and other Orthodox Christian countries and the hollow in our humble Easter egg. Over 2000 years on the Christian Church endures because that belief is well founded. If you'd like to find out more do come along to one of our services. All are welcome.

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

EVERY SUNDAY IN CHURCH AT 9.30AM

FORTNIGHTLY FROM THURSDAY 21st APRIL AT 9.30AM AT 7 CARTWRIGHT ROAD *A short informal service of Holy Communion, followed by refreshments*

PALM SUNDAY: 10TH APRIL AT 9.30AM AT THE VILLAGE HALL
An Outdoor service beginning at the Memorial Hall and ending at the Church

THURSDAY 14TH APRIL AT 9.30AM IN CHURCH
A service of Holy Communion for Maundy Thursday

GOOD FRIDAY: 15TH APRIL AT 2PM IN CHURCH
A service of Reflection & Meditation

EASTER DAY: 17TH APRIL AT 9.30AM IN CHURCH
Holy Communion

With all good wishes,
Father Matthew, Tel. 811364, fathermatthew.r@icloud.com

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee in Charlton



Pre the Jubilee weekend : Best dressed house competition

Saturday 4th June : Party at the Pub

Lighting of Beacon in field behind the pub

Sunday 5th June : 12.00 Parade assembles at a point in the village

12.30 Parade – Choose 1 of the 7 decades of the Queen's reign

13.00 Shared lunch in the grounds of the Village Hall

Games at the Playing Field

Treasure Hunt

Next Meeting - 7.30 pm Tuesday 5th April at Charlton Village Hall.

All welcome

**Saturday 7th May 10 am – 12 pm
Freshers Morning at the Village Hall**

YOUR VILLAGE NEEDS YOU!

There are lots of exciting things happening in our village, and it's really fun and rewarding to get involved.

We have asked all the village organisations to come along. From Church to the Jubilee to Playing Field, Panto and Village Hall, there will be opportunities to talk to them all and, we are hoping, volunteer to help.

If that's not enough we have a table tennis table from 11.00, free refreshments and the Annual Parish Village Meeting will also be held at 10.30.

If you can't attend but would like to see how you can support, please email newbottleparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk

Charlton Village Hall Update - As reported last month, the hall is being well used by a variety of groups. This is good news and means that the Trustees will be working hard to maintain the hall's appearance and appeal for bookings.

At Freshers Morning on Saturday 7th May, you can find out more about the future plans for the hall including proposed new windows & curtains, flooring, wifi and an upgraded website.

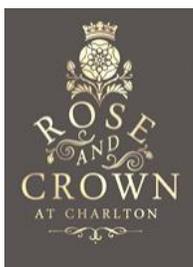
There is space on the committee for a couple more Trustees, which would lighten the load, and we will soon be losing our Booking Clerk so have a vacancy here. If you would like to know more about either role, please get in touch with Della, Chair of Trustees, on dellawolfe@thecurvegroup.co.uk

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Nature Notes

At the time of writing we are staying with friends in Hertfordshire and just over the road from their house is the village pond, much frequented by ducks. But this morning we were treated to a fine sight as the shallow slightly weedy end was full of frogs mating and laying their frogspawn. We had never seen so many frogs all together in one place before. There was already a great deal of frogspawn and it was also rather noisy. The male frogs get to the pond first having woken up from their winter hibernation and they advertise themselves to lure a female with an extraordinary sound: is always described as a 'croak' but we would describe it as more of a loud purr, not quite like a cat.

Common frogs vary in colour from green to brown and even red or yellow. We saw a yellow frog in our garden recently. Male frogs have 'nuptial pads' on their front feet to help them grip the females at the crucial moment. He wraps himself around the female and fertilises her eggs as they are produced. A female frog may lay up to 4,000 eggs in one season.

Frogs hop or jump whereas toads walk. We would love to have more frogs and toads in the garden as both feast on slugs and snails – of which we have plenty. But we never have frog spawn in our little pond as the newts eat any spawn before we even see it.

Doing a bit of weeding in a rather neglected corner of the garden recently we became conscious of the smell that denotes a dead animal nearby. We finally tracked it down to a corner behind the cardoons. There was a dead fox – a very dead fox – still with a very handsome bushy tail though much of the rest had gone. We wondered what had happened? Just old and crawled away to find a corner to die in? Or poisoned? We'll never know.

We have had a few beautiful warm sunny days just recently and we saw the first Brimstone butterfly of the year on March 10th, on the same day as we saw a Peacock butterfly out from its winter hiding place for the first time. Brimstone butterflies hibernate over winter among leaves and emerge on warm spring days to mate and lay their eggs on alder or buckthorn. These eggs, having gone through the caterpillar and pupal stages, emerge in July and may live for a year as butterflies, making them one of the most long-lived butterflies. They are always the first butterflies in the spring garden.

Violets can be rather a weed in this garden and there are times and places when they get pulled out of flower beds, but sometimes a clump just places itself in a perfect spot and it is a joy to see the purple or white flowers peeping up from ground level. These are the Sweet violets (*viola odorata*) and are quite common around here in the verges and under the hedges. Slightly later come the 'Dog Violets' which are unscented with a slightly paler blue, wider flower.

Deborah and Paul Hayter



Newbottle & Charlton School Update

It has been a busy month with lots of different events happening in and out of school. It started with Elm (Yr 3/4) class went to Northampton Museum to learn about the Vikings which I know they really enjoyed. Then as part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee planting initiative, Ash (Yr 1/2) class were invited by the Parish Council to plant some new trees at the playing field. Each child got to plant at least one and it will be lovely to see how they grow as the children move up the school.



We also took part in World Book Day and it was great to see lots of children in their PJs and character outfits. I definitely got some strange looks walking to school in my outfit, especially as we did it a week later than the majority of schools. Each class did something different to promote a love of reading. Oak and Ash classes (Yr R,1,2) wrote stories using the characters the children dressed up as; Elm class (Year

3/4) listened to the World Book Day Rap by Mc Grammar and started to create their own and Birch class (Year 5/6) used instruments to create some performance poetry. We also had two book shares: Adults read some of their favourite books to children in the morning and in the afternoon, Elm and Birch read picture books to Ash and Oak outside which was lovely to see. We relaunched our school library and children were allowed to borrow books to take home to share.

As part of our 150-year anniversary events, the children completed some 150 themed challenges in school. The Pupil Parliament decided that they would like to complete these to raise money to support the crisis in Ukraine and support Comic Relief. The children worked together to complete 5 challenges with the sponsorship money going to the Ukraine crisis Appeal through the charity Save the Children. These included each class doing 150 acts of kindness, a sponsored silence, completion of an obstacle course, making some active moves and the final challenge was baking 150 cakes for Red Nose Day.



Have a nice Easter,
Mr Smith, Headteacher

Playing Field Update

We took part in The Queen's Green Canopy in commemoration of her Platinum celebrations and it was great to get the school children involved in the planting. The trees may take a few years to have a significant impact and are located in the far corner of the field near to the Cartwright Road pedestrian entrance to the field.

It is great to see how much Brackley athletic are enjoying playing at the field, even without a pavilion(!). The money that they pay for the use of the facilities is invaluable as we look to develop the field and start to apply for funding. It is also very helpful for our business case that we have regular users of the field.

The initial works to the car park have been completed and two holes made in the hedge to facilitate 2 pedestrian entrances which will be gated soon. We know that there is still a challenge with parking in the village when there are multiple games on at the weekend. We are looking at how best to use the car park space and working with the club. We have reiterated to the club to park safely in the village.

The business plan and appendices are now published on the Newbottle and Charlton website <https://www.charltonandnewbottle.com/> Thank you for the comments that we have received to date. Now we have the plan we really hope that more villagers would like to get involved, we will be publishing opportunities to support the project over the coming months. If you want to get involved or have any comments please email these to charltonplayingfields@yahoo.com or contact the Parish Council at newbottle-parishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk or come and see us at Freshers Morning where we will have our plans to show you.

Charlton W.I.

Sadly after 48 years, Charlton W.I. has been formally suspended. We have a membership of approx. 22 but for various reasons like changing family commitments, health problems and, (dare I say it), old age, we are unable to form a committee to arrange future meetings and events.

Over the years close friendships have developed. We have celebrated birthdays and wedding anniversaries, as well as supporting each other through difficult times. Some of our founder members are still coming to our meetings.

The strength of the W.I. is its ability to deal with important national and international issues such as climate change, pollution, nuclear energy, health and mental health matters as well as things nearer to home such as cookery, handicraft and gardening. The annual resolutions have involved us all in debate and every member is entitled to vote. Most of you will have seen our W.I. in action. For many years we were responsible for serving teas at the Church Fete. Some of you have come to our fund raising evenings such as The Victorian Evening.

The Northampton Federation will suspend Charlton W.I. for three years. During that time if a group comes forward to restart a W.I. in the village our finances would be available to help them. After that the money goes into a fund to support new W.I.s in the county. So the door is open for a younger generation to restart their own institute, perhaps give it a funky name and have the fun, laughter and strong friendships we have enjoyed.

Diane Morgan (President)

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