

CHARLTON LINK

Village News for the People of Newbottle & Charlton

ISSUE 400 JULY 2022

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All the fun of the Fete!

Saturday 23rd July 2022

Preparations for Charlton's traditional Village Fete are well underway. In the week leading up to the Fete, we will be knocking on doors to ask for bottle donations for the Bottle Tombola, as well as selling raffle tickets and delivering your Fete programme. We can collect bottles of anything – wines, spirits or even bubble bath!

On Saturday 23rd July, come and spend a fantastic afternoon at the Fete, with all your favourite games and stalls.

New for 2022: A card reader to purchase £5 or £10 worth of 50p/£1 tokens which will be accepted by all stalls. We're also happy to continue taking cash.

The Fete is the most important fundraiser for our St James Church, Newbottle. Please come along and support this wonderful event.

See the Link in colour at www.charltonandnewbottle.com
Charlton Link Editor: Julia Rands, juliarands@hotmail.com 01295 812446



Nature Notes

Yesterday the skies were busy above us as we sat in the garden. There were a few swifts wheeling around and screaming as they went; above there was a pair of red kites floating serenely without apparently doing anything; then above that there were parachutists appearing out of the occasional clouds. It was lovely to see the swifts: there are a few that have come back to Charlton but we are very sad that we have no swifts nesting in our eaves. Thirty years ago when we moved in there were nests all the way round the house and the swifts circling and screaming above our top lawn was the usual accompaniment to summer in the garden.

It wasn't a good spring for a number of our migrant birds: a swallow expert who has been noting arrival times for many years wrote that the average return date for swallows in his village was 8th April but that this year he didn't see one until the 25th. The Portland Bird Observatory in Dorset, where many swallows make their first landfall, saw that there were very few birds for the first half of April and they think that the main arrival of migrants has been 10 days later than usual. There are two main reasons for this: swallows and martins don't fatten themselves up before undertaking their long journey, but feed as they go, replenishing their reserves by catching flying insects. But the weather in southern Europe this spring, especially southern Spain which the birds cross after leaving Africa, was very unsettled with heavy rainfall, strong winds and even falls of snow in some places.

The second reason is that, here in Britain, although the weather has been mainly dry, there have been persistent easterly and north-easterly winds, which slow the birds down as they head north. The late start matters to these birds as they need to get down to breeding as soon as they get here and it will mean that they may only manage to rear one brood instead of the usual two or sometimes even three.

One particular migrant insect seems to have arrived early: we saw our first painted lady butterfly in the first week of June and have seen a few more since in the garden. It seems astonishing that such a small, light, ephemeral creature should have journeyed here from the Saharan edge, but so it is. Apparently they don't bother to come here in poor summers, so this might indicate that we have a long hot summer ahead.

We have also had a number of holly blue butterflies in the garden. This used to be known as the Azure Blue and is a truly bright and beautiful blue, flitting around trees and shrubs in both town and country. The larvae of this butterfly are parasitized by a tiny wasp, which reduces its numbers, but every so often the holly blue seems to be winning the contest, and summer 2022 is one of those times.

We've seen a grass snake in the garden, the first for some time – very pleased to know we are providing a home for these. Not so pleased to be chasing muntjac deer out of the garden, as these appear to have chomped the tops off all our broad bean plants. And we still have badgers coming in – occasional latrine pits in evidence – and their latest depredation was a large pair of holes dug in a flower bed next to a retaining wall. We couldn't think what they were after until we realized that there were bees coming in and out of one of the holes and so we think the badger was after the larvae of the bees in an underground nest.

HELP PLEASE!

There is LOTS going on in the village and we could do with some support.

The Village Hall is embarking on a three year development programme and the Playing Field is undergoing major regeneration. Both of these projects need help.

The good news is that for now, we don't need more committee members for either, so if meetings are not your thing then you are in luck!

So what do we need?

- ⇒ 'Worker bees' so that we can cut costs, this might be a working party to clear the grounds at the Village Hall or cutting stakes and binders at the Playing Field for when we lay the fence in the winter
- ⇒ Fundraising applications – pulling together the relevant documentation and summarising projects to apply for grants
- ⇒ Project Management – for example, we may apply for new windows and solar panels at the village hall and need someone to oversee this
- ⇒ Event support – for any future fundraising or community events in the village

I would love to get more people involved, by splitting the different tasks out hopefully it will mean that its not as daunting. The workload is really increasing now so please do get in touch. My email is della@thecurvegroup.co.uk or 07736 859124.



We say goodbye this month to Phil and Sarah Marshall as they move to Derbyshire. They have both been brilliant in supporting our community and we will miss them greatly.

Sarah has been a fantastic Booking Clerk and Trustee of the Village Hall. Phil will be standing down as a Parish Councillor where he has reinvigorated the Playing Field Project. We promise to keep the energy going!

Good luck Phil and Sarah with your exciting new adventure.

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Newbottle & Charlton School Update

We started off our term with a STEM themed week (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) and the children enjoyed carrying out investigations and completing engineering challenges linked to the theme of growth. We finished our week with an inspiring assembly and special workshops from a visitor called Atomic Tom. The workshops were on electricity, dinosaurs, bubbles and getting DNA from a strawberry. The children really enjoyed the week and learnt lots.

As we count down the days until the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, we held a special Commonwealth Games Day at school. A group of 20 older children represented the school at a special South Northants event at Daventry Athletics Club competing against other schools. In school we learnt about the Commonwealth Games and completed special sports challenges. We also had a visit from the athlete Adrian Patrick who is a Commonwealth Gold Medallist for (4x400m). The children took part in a simple fun fitness circuit with him and he spoke to them about his Commonwealth Games experience.

We look forward to seeing many of you at our 150th Year celebration on 8th July.

Mr Smith, Headteacher

JOIN US FOR A CELEBRATION

Newbottle & Charlton C of E Primary School 

150th anniversary 1872 - 2022

**2.40pm to 5.15pm
on FRIDAY 8TH JULY
at Newbottle & Charlton School**

BBQ	Face Painting	Singing
Bouncy Castle	Stalls	Refreshments

A chance to relax, reflect, have fun & enjoy our wonderful community!

Our wonderful Platinum Jubilee celebrations

We began with a fabulous beacon lighting and BBQ at the Rose & Crown on Saturday and continued the festivities on Sunday with the Platinum Parade, Jubilee Picnic in the big barn at Forceleap Farm (thanks to Alice) and commemorative tree planting at the playing field.



- ☆ The Treasure Hunt winners were Kiki and Sarah Baker
- ☆ The Best Dressed people in the parade were Molly Hamer and Sarah Marshall

Fr Matthew and his daughter Felicity took a great deal of time and energy inspecting the village decorations to judge the Best Dressed House. They awarded 1st place to Clockhouse Stables and 2nd place to 19 Farthinghoe Road.

Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make our village look amazing. And thanks to Della Wolfe and the team of organisers for making it a weekend to remember!

Here are a few snaps from Charlton's excellent weekend of Jubilee jubilations! If you'd like to see them in colour, you can read the Link on the village website (www.charltonandnewbottle.com/)

Beacon lighting



Clockhouse Stables'
winning decorations





Jubilee picnic at Forceleap



Treeplanting at the Playing Field



Our Platinum Parade



Thrilled to report that we had a record attendance at Open farm Sunday at Forceleap after 2 years absence. We welcomed over 700 people to the event, a national showcase of all things farming. The idea is for lots of commercial farms to open-up on the same day to give people an insight into how farms work and how the food we all eat is produced.

The kids really enjoyed climbing into the cabs of the tractors and the combine and a highlight for many is the tractor and trailer ride up to Newbottle and back. The trailer, still resplendent in Jubilee decorations, was in constant use all afternoon.

There was sheep shearing to watch and the beekeeper had his observation hive out for all to see. In the barn were lots of information boards and competitions as well as activities organised by the school and, of course, the famous Smith and Clay BBQ. We also sold lots of (thanks to all those who baked for us) and we sold ice creams and lollies. So, lots of kids on a sugar high!

All in all, it was a great day, as far as I could see, thoroughly enjoyed by all. I have to say a big thankyou for everyone who helped us put it on. But I need to especially thank the team here at the Estate, Roz with her endless pressure washing, Andrew wielding his multi pack of cable ties, Pete with all the signage and getting trestles and anything else we needed, Jordan organising the machinery for the day and Lulu for admin! On the day Podge looking after all the expensive kit and we also must thank all the volunteers who helped man the activities, Trevor with his birds of prey, Tony with his bees and of course all those who made cakes as well as looked after the activities etc.



Finally, many thanks to the local companies who sponsored the event and allowed us to raise about £1,500 (final figure tbc) for the Playing Fields restoration project. The weather was great, the smiles were broad, and it was just great fun to be able to hold such a popular event again! Thanks to all who came or helped.

Alice



Trevor with his birds of prey



Our tractors and combine



Tony with his bees



Games and competitions set up



The ever-popular tractor and trailer ride

The weather didn't seem to dampen our spirits as we celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. It was a lovely weekend of events, and it was a privilege to bless the tree planted in the playing field to mark the occasion.

Celebrations of a different kind will take place in church this month as we give thanks to God for our village school. It's 150 years since it opened, and at 9.30am on Wednesday 20th July the Bishop of Peterborough will be joining us for a special service to mark this occasion, and the end of the academic year.

On the 23rd of July the annual Charlton Fete will take place. Last year's fete was the first one since I moved to the parish, and so I was curious to finally experience something I had heard so much about. It more than lived up to expectations! If you are going to be in the village that weekend do come along and bring your friends too. It will be tremendous fun.

July also has the feast of St Swithun. He was the Bishop of Winchester in the ninth century. The Church traditionally celebrates this old English saint on the 15th. You may know the old saying that if the weather is fair on this day we will enjoy 40 days of fine, dry conditions, but if it rains it will continue to do so for 40 days. We may smile and shrug, and say that all this is coincidence and that the weather really has nothing to do with an old saint! In fact St Swithun is remembered because he was faithful to God and used his God-given talents in the service of others. A life lived in this way can be a source of goodness and blessings over many generations. I am reminded of this lesson every time I visit our village school. Generations of children have been, and are being, blessed by God through the talents and dedication of teachers past and present. Many of those children will, doubtless, have blessed their own families with the knowledge and formation they have received at the school, and so down the generations these gifts are shared far beyond the boundaries of our village. May God continue to bless the staff and pupils at our school.

With my best wishes,
Father Matthew
Tel. 811364, email: fathermatthew.r@icloud.com

FORTHCOMING SERVICES
EVERY SUNDAY IN CHURCH AT 9.30AM

**EVERY FORTNIGHT, FROM 14th JULY, ON THURSDAY AT 9.30AM
AN INFORMAL SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION AT 7 CARTWRIGHT
ROAD, FOLLOWED BY REFRESHMENTS**

**WEDNESDAY 20TH JULY AT 9.30AM IN CHURCH:
A FAMILY & SCHOOL SERVICE TO CELEBRATE THE END OF TERM &
THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR VILLAGE SCHOOL, WITH THE
BISHOP OF PETERBOROUGH**

ALL ARE WELCOME

Charlton Village Hall

This is a busy time for the Village Hall, with ongoing improvements to the play area and upgrade plans for the hall.

The **Annual General Meeting is taking place on Wednesday 13th July 2022 at 7pm**, followed by a regular Trustees committee meeting. At this meeting we confirm the trustees for next year.

The Trustees would be delighted and grateful if anyone would like to join the team that meets a few times a year and makes sure our Village Hall is maintained and used for the benefit of the village. Please come along to the AGM to find out more.

Playing Field Update

It's great to see the two new pedestrian gates at the playing field, we used one to enter the field to plant the Jubilee Tree.

Our next project is to start the perimeter path, this initially will join the two pedestrian gates together and create a path from the road by the Notice-board. As we get more funds we will complete more of the path, until finally, we complete the full circuit of the field. We are working through the legal documentation required to apply for some of the larger grants, but we are still fundraising.

The game of Heads and Tails at the Jubilee Picnic raised £83 and more than £1000 was raised at Open Farm Sunday (with more donations to come). Thank you to everyone for your generosity.

DEFIBRILATOR REMINDER: A Defibrillator is located outside the front door of the Primary School for anyone to use in an emergency. The cabinet is opened with a code provided by a 999 operator. The Parish Council has taken responsibility for the maintenance of the defibrillator located at the School and has purchased another Defibrillator for the Playing Field.

Delivering your Link

A big 'thank you' to all those who bring you the Charlton Link each month (Eileen Graver, Arthur Milsom, Diane Morgan (who has now handed over to Anita Harris), Allan Hawkins and Paul Hayter).

Some of these have been doing their rounds for many years and some would like to step down, so we are looking for new volunteers. It doesn't take long and it's quite enjoyable! Please contact Deborah Hayter on hayterdeborahg@gmail.com or call 811176 if you can help.

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