

CHARLTON LINK

Village News for the People of Newbottle & Charlton

ISSUE 352 MAY 2018

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Aynho & Charlton

May Time CELEBRATION

Saturday 19th May 2018
3:30pm in The Square, Aynho

- Town Crier • Procession •
- Crowning of The May Queen •
- Mummers Play •
- WI's homemade refreshments in the hall •
- Craft & Gift Stalls • Gardening Club Plant Stall •

Want a stall in
The Square?
£5 - Call Kay on
0330 113 6008
or
kaynho@lineone.net



Followed by

FAMILY BARN DANCE

7pm Aynho Village Hall

Run by and proceeds to Newbottle & Charlton School PTFA

Dancing to Apricot Pie

Chilli provided by The Great Western Arms
included in ticket price.

Licensed Bar, tuck shop and ice cream
available to buy.

Tickets - Adult £10. Child £6.

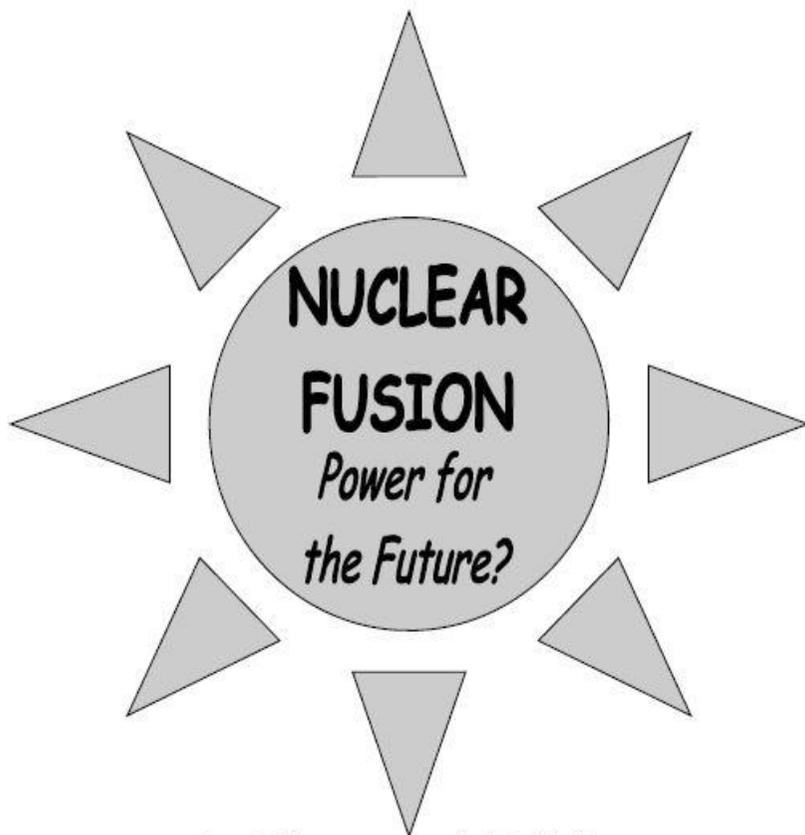
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Newbottle & Charlton Parent, Teacher and Friends Association; Registered Charity No.1123474

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CHARLTON W.I. presents



**An Illustrated Talk by
Robin Stafford Allen FIMechE**

**7.30pm on Monday 11th June at
Charlton Memorial Hall**

Admission £3

We are facing a growing problem with energy for the world population; demand for energy is rising faster than the population growth rate. The vast majority of energy comes from fossil fuels which will not last for ever. Renewables cannot be relied upon for 'base-load' energy supply continuously. Nuclear fission has contributed a significant amount to base-load supply but there are problems with this. This talk will cover world energy and will explain how clean nuclear fusion and the progress in its research.

GARDENS OPEN IN CHARLTON SUNDAY April 29th 2 – 5.30 pm

On Sunday April 29th there will be three gardens open in Charlton for the National Gardens Scheme, with a variety of shapes, sizes and styles. The owners of the gardens at Charlton Lodge, The Croft and Walnut House are all hoping for hordes of visitors. There will be delicious teas at Walnut House, provided by the Friends of Charlton School, with the proceeds going to the school, and there will also be **plants for sale** at Walnut House, with lots of bedding plants and interesting perennials.

PLEASE COME AND SUPPORT!

Evenley Gardening Society has organised a coach trip to **Beth Chatto Gardens in Colchester on Saturday 30th June.**

There are still some seats available on the coach and the total cost including entry is £20. Pick up points in Brackley and Evenley. We leave The Greyhound, Brackley 8.15am, Market Place 8.20am and Evenley Village Hall 8.30am, arriving home at around 6.45pm. We will be allowing for a comfort stop on both journeys, although there is a toilet on the coach.

Anybody interested please contact Robert Lathbury on (01280) 704320 or Joyce Stevens (01280) 704861.

Ernest (Ernie) Dorman, retired art teacher, of Suncroft, Charlton, died in the Horton General Hospital on January 28, aged 89.

His painting, titled Gethsemane, was in the top ten for The Prix de Rome while Ernie was at Wimbledon School of Art. It was his Intermediate exam piece.



MINUTES OF THE NEWBOTTLE AND CHARLTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT THE MEMORIAL HALL, CHARLTON ON MONDAY 16 APRIL 2018 AT 7.30PM

PRESENT: Chairman, Councillor Andrew Woods; Councillors Linda Baker, Richard Bland, Adrian Kelly, Michael Loggin and Diana Sheasby.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Theresa Goss (Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer), District Councillor Rebecca Breese and seven members of the public.

APOLOGIES: Parish Councillor Andrea Gladden, Sir Paul and Lady Hayter and Sid Baker.

1. **MINUTES** - The minutes of the meeting held on 24 April 2017 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
2. **MATTERS ARISING** - There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 24 April 2017.
3. **OPEN FORUM** - Village organisations had been invited to attend the meeting and submit verbal reports on their work and achievements in the last 12 months.

Pavilion

The Chairman reported that around £5000 had been fundraised so far, thanks to James Love, Sean Pankhurst and Victoria Beadle. A new 25 year lease had just been signed for the playing field and this would now allow grant funding to be accessed.

Pantomime

Della Wolfe reported that 2019 was panto year and the planning had begun. The panto would be The Pied Piper and Russell Fowler would be directing this year. It would be his second directorial takeover and we wish him luck. We had a number of our established panto members who were now taking a back seat, if not stepping away altogether so we were after some new blood. Please do come forward if you do want to help in any capacity, front of house, production, set decoration or on the stage. The fun begins in earnest with auditions on the 5th and 12th September 2018 and then we meet every Wednesday until performance week. The dates for next year were 20th – 23rd February 2019 and we look forward to welcoming everyone to enjoy the performances. Oh yes we do! If any villagers did want to get involved then look out for the articles in the Charlton Link. All were welcome.

Charlton Memorial Hall

Della Wolfe reported the Memorial Hall had another good year, with its small band of happy committee members. We had maintained both inside and outside facilities, either with the use of committee members, their friends or external contractors. The highlight of last year was giving the hall a much needed decorating upgrade which had been completed in the school summer holidays. We also dry cleaned the curtains at the same time. This had freshened up all the facilities and had been well received by all users. We had involved an architect to draw up plans for the ceiling project (removing the false ceiling in the main hall, additional insulation and better lighting). We welcomed Alvin Patterson to support with maintenance, along with Phil Wolfe who had performed ad hoc

repairs. We said goodbye to Diana Sheasby who left the committee after many years' service, we thank her publicly for her support and hard work. Her departure meant that we no longer had a direct link into the Parish Council and as part of our constitution, this is a requirement. Finances were in good order. There had been an acceptable number of regular bookings and the playgroup numbers were steady, finances were comfortable.

A reminder that the memorial hall village rate was very reasonable and we could offer support to fledging groups who wanted to start any new village activities. The table tennis tables were also sitting there unused if anyone was interested in starting up a club. Rates would not be increasing this year for villagers for the 3rd year in a row. Future Focus was on:

- Continuing the maintenance of the halls and gardens
- Applying for a first round of funding to remove the ceiling tiles in the main hall, insulate the ceiling and improve the lighting
- We were always happy to welcome new committee members, particularly those that who were able to support in the upkeep of the hall. Please let us know if you know of anyone that has some free time and able to contribute. We meet approx. every 6 weeks. Any volunteer requests should go to Della Wolfe, her email was della@thecurvegroup.co.uk

Women's' Institute

Diane Morgan, the President of the Charlton WI, reported that the membership was now at 25, which was the highest it had been for some time. Meetings were held on the second Monday of each month at 730pm at the Memorial Hall. There had been a variety of speakers, trips and activities this year and they had all been enjoyed very much. One highlight had been a visit from a hearing dog and its owner, who demonstrated how the dog responded to different sounds such as a telephone and a doorbell. There was also an open meeting being held in June 2018. It was a friendly group and visitors were always welcome to attend.

Newbottle Church

David Morgan, the Church Warden reported that it had been a challenging year for Newbottle Church with the deteriorating health of Father Bellamy who had not been able to take services. Rev Roger Burne had been helping to take communion services on many occasions and David Morgan had taken Morning Prayer. The occasional wedding and special services had been led by visiting clergy. The condition of the Church and the cemetery was generally good and the Church was grateful for the Parish Council grant. There were services at 930am on a Sunday and attendance at these had remained constant.

4. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT** – The Chairman of the Parish Council, Andrew Woods, reported on the work of the Parish Council during 2017/2018. The Chairman

thanked all Councillors especially the new Councillors Adrian Kelly and Richard Bland, outgoing Councillor Bob Whitrow as well as the Clerk, Theresa Goss, for their work this year.

The Chairman's report also included information on the new VAS, New Homes Bonus, signage cleaning, request for a weight-limit signs on the A43, new 25 year lease for the playing field, grants, new dog waste bin, planning matters, grass cutting, street lighting, litter pick and the General Data Protection Regulations. The Chairman also encouraged residents to get in touch with the Parish Council with their comments and correspondence.

The Chairman also thanked Sean Pankhurst, James Love and Victoria Beadle for all their hard work on the Pavilion project. Councillor Richard Bland reported that Gigaclear had not stopped work in the village. They would be working next on Main Street and would be finished in a couple of months. The Parish Council did not know anything about this work until it had started. The full Chairman's report was available on the Parish Council web site.

5. **FINANCIAL REPORT 2017/2018** - The Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer presented to the Annual Parish Meeting, the financial report for 2017/2018. The figures had been subject to internal audit and gave an accurate picture of the activities of the year. It was noted by the meeting that the Parish Council gave an annual donation to the Memorial Hall of £350 to cover the cost of the grass cutting.
6. **REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS** - County and District Councillor Rebecca Breese had circulated her reports prior to the meeting. They would also be made available on the Parish Council's web site.

Councillor Breese reported that:

- John Ellerby would be sending out details about a possible new bus service through Charlton. The current bus service was to be cut and Mr Ellerby was working on whether or not a new service was financially viable.
- Libraries were included the County Council's budget and some in Northamptonshire would become independent. This meant that they would have to buy or rent their own premises and a community group would take responsibility.
- Sajid Javid wanted two unitary authorities in Northamptonshire, one in the north and one in the west, but this was open to change and alternative proposals would be put forward. Further information would be forwarded when there were firmer proposals.
- There was £48m in the highways maintenance budget, which included work to potholes. Kier were the contractors who carried out the maintenance work. There were also proposals for a dual carriageway, north of Farthinghoe.
- Due to the County Council effectively being bankrupt, NCC had sold some of its buildings including Angel Square and was then renting back Angel Square to save money and balance the budget.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Breese for her reports and thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

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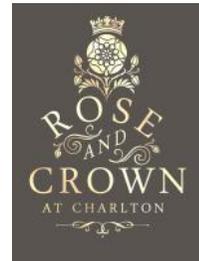
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**Come and enjoy the sunshine
in our garden
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the Cherwell Valley**



Relax and enjoy!

Charlton Memorial Hall

As you can see in the notes of the Annual Parish Meeting (pg 4), the Memorial Hall is financially stable and well cared for by the Trustees. However, the number of Trustees has fallen and we are need of more support from the village.

Could you spare a little time to become a valued Trustee and help to take care of our village asset? The small committee meets a few times a year to discuss bookings, maintenance and keep an eye on the finances. If you would like to get involved, please contact Chair of Trustees, Della Wolfe on della@thecurvegroup.co.uk for more details.

Don't forget that Charlton Memorial Hall has three modern, high quality table tennis tables that are available to borrow as part of your hall hire and that rates have not increased this year for villagers for the 3rd consecutive year.



**Charlton's traditional Village Fete at The Cottage
will take place on Saturday 14th July**

**All your favourite stalls and games are planned, along with
the Tennis Tournament, raffle and refreshments**

**The next Fete planning meeting will take place at The
Cottage, 7.30pm on Tuesday 19th June**

All welcome!

Nature Notes

We must be on a goose flight-path here. Spring and autumn days are punctuated by the honking of geese as they fly over. We assume they are flying roughly south and west in the autumn and north and east in the spring but we don't often see them overhead – just hear them honking on their way. If they are Canada Geese, an introduced species from North America, they have spread all over the UK and are resident all year round, so they are perhaps just looking around for new places to nest. They can be a real nuisance if they settle in large gardens and parks as they are grazing vegetarians and leave a lot of evidence behind on what might have been pleasant grass.

The RSPB has produced the results from January's Big Garden Bird Watch. 420,489 of us counted an amazing 6,754,475 birds. In the top ten were house sparrows at the top followed by starlings. Next came the blue tit followed by blackbird, wood pigeon and goldfinch. Number seven was great tit, number eight was robin and the last two were long-tailed tit and chaffinch. We haven't often seen long-tailed tits in the garden and we thought they came to our feeders in this winter because the very cold weather had diminished their feeding opportunities in the hedgerows where they are normally seen.

We noticed that the berries on bush ivy were particularly luscious this year. The hedge along the church path by the cemetery was covered in them and during the really cold period in March when 'the beast from the east' was afflicting us every single berry was stripped, though the ones on the bush ivy on the outside wall of the village hall grounds in Green Lane had not been touched – perhaps there were too many interruptions there from traffic and passers-by. Ivy berries are an extremely useful source of food for birds at a bleak time of year for them, and they are only produced by ivy when it can't climb any further and turns itself into a shrub.

We can remember when it was rare to see a cowslip outside gardens but they have found a home on motorway verges. Between junctions nine and ten of the M40 there are masses of cowslips, just coming into flower, and it is lovely to see them flourishing there. Unless treated by herbicide they are safe, as they won't get picked: country people used to make cowslip wine which entailed picking cowslips by the bushel. Inevitably this meant that all the best and biggest flowers got picked, leaving the runts behind, so the plants that we tend to see now are perhaps not as fine as they used to be.

As we write it has suddenly turned very warm and spring is rushing forward. Ash-tree buds are bursting out: during the winter ash buds are matt black against the silvery-grey twigs and then in spring they turn into what look a bit like blackberries and then these open up to reveal lime-green inflorescences. We have seen several newts in our small pond: newts are semiaquatic and mostly leave the water in autumn and spend the winter on dry ground, hiding under logs and stones. They are useful at this time as they are carnivorous eating slugs and snails. They return to the water in spring to mate and lay their eggs. Nests are a welcome sight in this garden but the muntjac deer one morning recently was definitely not: something has eaten all our snakeshead fritillaries and we are blaming the deer.

Deborah and Paul Hayter



The pavilion fundraising committee are very pleased to be able to confirm that we now have a signed lease that will secure the use of Charlton Playing Field for all user groups for a period of 25 years. It's been quite a long journey as many of the community groups have been pursuing the lease for the last 18 months, so it's quite an achievement.

With the lease now signed we can commence preparation of our grant applications, which we hope will provide the majority of our funds. A requirement of the grant applications is to evidence that we have approached businesses to contribute to our cause. Over the last few weeks we have been working towards this and have so far contacted 35 local companies.

We know from our experience with the auction night that personal connections count for a great deal. Consequently if you feel that the company you are employed by or perhaps a company that you regularly deal with may make a donation we would be grateful if you could get in contact with us through our Facebook Page or our email address Charltonpavilion@gmail.com. Thanks for your continued support.

FESTIVAL OF GARDENS (MARCH TO SEPTEMBER)



**KATHARINE
HOUSE
HOSPICE**

Our Festival of Gardens returns this summer with over 30 beautiful gardens open in your area. This year gardens are open in Adderbury, Balscote, Farthinghoe, Middleton Cheney, Epwell and Heyford Park. For more information on the gardens, please visit www.khh.org.uk/gardens

CARE FOR A ROYAL CUPPA?

Get together with friends, family, and colleagues for a coffee morning or afternoon tea party and raise money for Katharine House. This May we're giving our Care for a Cuppa campaign a special royal twist. What better way to celebrate the Royal Wedding than with a Great British tea and cake party? Help raise much needed funds by holding a royal-themed cake sale in your work place or invite your friends over to watch the Royal Wedding together with a slice of cake (or two!). Hold a coffee morning, a traditional afternoon tea, or even a Care for a Curry evening and help raise money for people and their families facing life-limiting illnesses in the community. For more information, visit www.khh.org.uk/cuppa

CHURCH Fr Roger Bellamy, The Vicarage, Kings Sutton
Tel: 01295 811364 <https://newbottlechurch.weebly.com>

Church services for May are as follows:

Sunday 6th May at 09.30 Sung Communion

Sunday 13th May at 09.30 Matins

Sunday 20th May at 09.30 Sung Communion

Sunday 27th May at 09.30

Sunday 3rd June at 09.30

There will be a **Bag2School collection from Newbottle & Charlton Primary School on Tuesday 15th May**. If you have any unwanted, good quality clothes or paired shoes, please bag them up and leave them near the old school front door before 9am.

Bag2School is a **free fundraising scheme** for Schools, Community Groups and Charities to help raise money from donations of clothing. Unwanted textiles are collected and sold to importers and wholesalers in many countries of Eastern and Western Europe, Africa and Asia.

Accepted items: men's, ladies and children's clothing; paired shoes; handbags; hats; bags; scarves/ties; jewellery; lingerie; belts; soft toys. Not accepted: duvets, bedding, blankets and household linen; pillows and cushions; carpets, rugs and mats; curtains; towels; soiled, painted, ripped clothing; school uniforms; corporate clothing and workwear; textile off cuts, yarns or threaded material.

The school has raised hundreds of pounds through Bags2School over the years, money has been used for school trips and equipment.

Please support us if you can.



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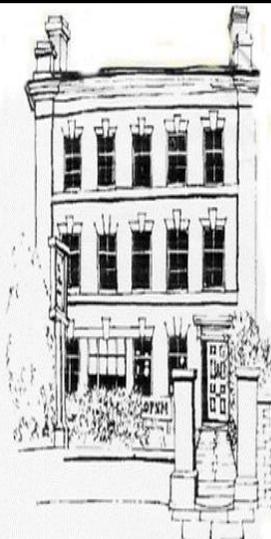
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