

# CHARLTON LINK

Village News for the People of Newbottle & Charlton



ISSUE 370 DECEMBER 2019

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## ***Christmas Carol Service by Candlelight***

**St. James' Church, Newbottle, 6pm, Sunday 22nd December**

The shopping is done, the food is prepared, presents are wrapped and the tree is decorated. Now it's time to remember  
***what Christmas is really all about***

*Come to your parish church, hear the real Christmas story and sing the carols, all by candlelight. Mulled wine and mince pies to follow.*

**Midnight Mass 9.30pm St. James' Church on Christmas Eve  
9.30am Holy Communion on Christmas Day**

### ***Decorating the church for Christmas***

We shall be decorating the church for Christmas on **Saturday 21st December**, beginning at 10am. If you'd like to help or to contribute we'd love to see you. Some people like to give flowers in remembrance of a loved one. We like white flowers best for Christmas. No expertise required! There'll be coffee and biscuits to help us along.



[www.charltonandnewbottle.com](http://www.charltonandnewbottle.com)

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

# **Notes of the Newbottle Parish Council Meeting - Monday 18 November 2019 at 7.30pm [www.newbottleparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.newbottleparishcouncil.co.uk)**

**Present** – Chairman; Councillor Andrew Woods; Councillors Linda Baker, Adrian Kelly, Michael Loggin and Diana Sheasby, Theresa Goss (Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer) and three members of the public.

**Apologies** – Councillor Andrea Gladden.

**Minutes** - The minutes of the meeting held on 16 September 2019 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**Relocation of Speed Signs** - The relocation of the poles and speed signs on Farthinghoe Road would be completed in the next 6 to 8 weeks.

**Dog Waste Bin** – The new dog waste bin would be located on Farthinghoe Road, in the grass verge between the green cabinet and the hedge.

**Footpaths** – Astrop Estates would be asked whether they would introduce a permissive footpath running from the Cemetery to Newbottle Woods.

**Parish Council Elections** – Parish Council elections would be held in May 2020. A number of existing Councillors would not be standing again and therefore new Councillors would be needed. If anyone was interested in becoming a Parish Councillor, please contact the Clerk or any existing Councillor for further details about the role.

**VE Day Commemorations** – The 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day is on 8 May 2020 and if anyone would like to organise a village event, please contact the Clerk.

**Affordable Housing** – A Housing Needs Survey would be sent to every household in the Parish in January 2020, to establish whether or not there was a need amongst the community for new affordable housing. The results would be reported at the end of February 2020.

## **Planning**

S/2019/2268/FUL

Holly House, Drury Lane, Charlton. Single storey Rear Extension. Approved by South Northants Council.

S/2019/2004/FUL

Farafield, Hogg Lane, Charlton, Demolition of an existing house and integral garage and erection of new replacement house and carport. No comments from the Parish Council

**Budget/Precept 2020/2021** – The budget was approved and the precept for 2020/2021 was set at £13,000.

**Playing Field Lease and Pavilion Project** – Volunteers were needed to progress the grant applications and also organise fundraising events for the project. Please contact the Clerk to the Parish Council if you could assist with this.

**Meeting Dates** - Future meetings, all starting at 7.30pm at the Memorial Hall, Charlton were as follows:

No meeting in December 2019	
20 January 2020	17 March 2020
20 April 2020 (Annual Parish Meeting)	18 May 2020
20 July 2020	21 September 2020
16 November 2020	

**All welcome to attend!**

A copy of the draft minutes for the whole meeting are available at [www.newbottleparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.newbottleparishcouncil.co.uk) or please contact the Clerk, Theresa Goss, at [newbottleparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:newbottleparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk) or ring 01295 710965 during normal office hours

**You can also follow Newbottle Parish Council on Facebook**

# SPRUCE UP DAY

Can you help to clear the Memorial Hall Gardens?



SATURDAY 15<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER - 11am.  
PLEASE BRING ANY USEFUL GARDENING TOOLS.

If you can't attend in person, could you lend your green bin?  
Please bring it along before 11am and collect later in the day



We are enjoying a busy term at Preschool. The children have been making lots of crafts and are learning about rhythm and rhyme. We have also been learning about British values, as well as other cultures, festivals and celebrations.

We would like to invite everyone to our **Nativity**, "**Come to our party**," and **Christmas Fayre** on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December from 1pm - 3pm. Raffle tickets can be bought prior to the event from the Preschool or on the day. There will be tombolas, refreshments, Count the Balloons in the Tractor, a silent auction and festive games to get everyone in the Christmas spirit! We hope to see you there.

## Christmas Posting

### UK

Special Delivery Mon 23 Dec  
1<sup>st</sup> Class Fri 20 Dec  
2<sup>nd</sup> Class Wed 18 Dec  
Parcelforce 24 Mon 23 Dec  
Parcelforce 48 Fri 20 Dec

### Selected Overseas

France & Ireland Wed 18 Dec  
Germany & Spain Mon 16 Dec  
USA, Canada, Czech Rep, Finland,  
Italy, Poland & Sweden Sat 14 Dec  
Australia, New Zealand, Turkey  
& Greece Thu 12 Dec

To answer a frequently asked question: many parcels and packages need delivery confirmation and/or a signature. If there is no one at home, it cannot just be left.

Contrary to popular belief, Banbury sorting office is our village collection point and not the village post office. For 11 months of the year we are happy to hold your parcels but in December it becomes impractical to do this with the amount of parcels/post inside the Post Office.

If you are not in, the postman will return non-delivered parcels to the sorting office where you can either collect in person or arrange their 'Local Collect' service to have it specially delivered to the post office. This is a contractual agreement between Royal Mail and Post office Ltd.

Thank you.



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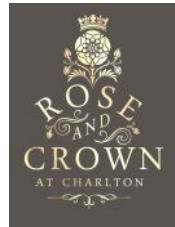
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### **Exciting News!**

The Rose and Crown has launched a **Pizza Menu**

We are now serving homemade Pizzas straight from our new oven!

Takeaways available with 30 minutes notice – normal business hours apply.

Call 01295 811317



## Services at Newbottle in December:

Thursday 9.30am Holy Communion at 7 Cartwright Road on 5th, 12th and 19th December.

Sunday 1st December: Advent 1: 9.30am Sung Eucharist

Sunday 8th December: Advent 2: 9.30am Matins & Holy Communion

Thursday 12th December: 6.30pm: Newbottle & Charlton School Christingle Service

Sunday 15th December: Advent 3: 9.30am Sung Eucharist

Friday 20th December: 10am Newbottle & Charlton School End of Term Service

Sunday 22nd December: Advent 4: 6pm Lessons & Carols

Christmas Eve: 10pm First Eucharist of Christmas

Christmas Day: 9.30am: Sung Eucharist

Sunday 29th December: Christmas 1: 9.30am Matins & Holy Communion

Sunday 5th January: The Epiphany: 9.30am Sung Eucharist

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In the Church we have now entered the season of Advent, which lasts from the 1st to the 24th of December. The ever popular Advent calendars are perhaps the most widely known reminder of this season, and they suit this time very well.

For Christians Advent is an important and special time, and the anticipation, surprise and, hopefully, joy which accompanies the opening of each new door on the calendar corresponds with the mood of the season.

At our services in Advent we shall be anticipating the coming of Christ. This means looking forward to the commemoration of his birth over 2000 years ago, but also preparing for his second coming.

The thought that Almighty God, the creator of the universe, chose to enter the world as a helpless baby remains as surprising today as it was to the shepherds who first visited the manger.

The fact that this event has opened up for us the path to eternal life is a cause for great joy. So the Advent Calendar, and the thoughts and emotions it prompts, is a pretty good accompaniment to the season.

Do come and join us in Advent, and at Christmas time, to share in that anticipation, surprise and joy. I hope that you will have a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.

**Fr Matthew**

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### Charlton Panto 2020

Rehearsals for The Charlton Panto in February 2020 are well underway. However, "The Pied Piper of Hamelin" needs more children to add to the chorus. Children's rehearsals take place on Wednesdays at Charlton Memorial Hall at 6.30pm.

If you would like to join in with this fun village event, or know of any local children who would like to be part of the chorus, please contact our director Russell on [rowler5@gmail.com](mailto:rowler5@gmail.com).

## Nature Notes

It has continued to rain and at the time of writing there are disastrous floods in the north and midlands and even in Oxfordshire people have been cut off. Fungi have continued to pop up all over the place and we found some enormous mushrooms in a wood in Hertfordshire. The biggest were nine inches across the top, but didn't look quite like the 'horse mushrooms' that we find in grass fields. We had thought they would be easy to identify but an exhaustive search through the fungi book failed to find anything similar that grew in woodland. Many fungi are very specific about their habitat which usually makes it easier to identify them. In this case we failed.

Turtle doves used to be really common in this country, but we came to the conclusion that we wouldn't recognise the sound of one even if we heard it, as it is so long since we've seen – or heard – one. They have a gentle purring song which used to be one of the sounds of summer – but not any longer. Turtle dove numbers dropped by 94% between 1995 and 2017. The RSPB has been researching their migratory routes and finding out where they spend the winters, in order to try and work out how to stem the decline. Several birds have been fitted with tiny satellite tracking devices and it is now known that in September when turtle doves leave the British Isles they travel through western France and central Spain, stopping to rest and refuel for a week or two before crossing the Mediterranean. They then speed across North Africa, cross the Sahara and find the Senegal river. Turtle doves spend two-thirds of their year outside the UK, mainly around river floodplains in Senegal, the Gambia, Mauritania and Mali. RSPB researchers have spent time in those winter quarters, looking to see if they are under threat there. So far it is known that crossing the Sahara northwards can be difficult, with sandstorms a major problem, but no-one has managed to pinpoint the causes of their very rapid decline.

The 10<sup>th</sup> annual Big Butterfly count took place between 19<sup>th</sup> July and 11<sup>th</sup> August and 113,502 people got out there and counted butterflies. It was definitely a Painted Lady year: there were 420,000 sightings of Painted Ladies, which made them almost 30 times more abundant this summer than in the 2018 Big Butterfly count. There were also good numbers of sightings of Small Tortoiseshells in some areas, but not in others where they remained scarce. The Common Blue had done well in 2018 but its numbers were down by 50% in 2019, and the same was true of the Holly Blue.

Warm weather in the summer has made it a great autumn for stunning leaf colour: we love the clear butter-yellow of field maple trees in the hedgerows, and many shrubs in the garden such as hydrangeas have produced gorgeous glowing reds and oranges. Berries have been good too: in this garden the red Pyracantha berries tend to get eaten by the birds first. All the Cotoneasters are laden with berries: we have various kinds, and some are more popular than others. Birds tend to eat red berries first, so the orange pyracantha berries tend to get left much longer, but the beautiful translucent bright red berries of the Guelder Rose are apparently very bitter and the birds have to be desperate to eat those.

**Deborah and Paul Hayter**



## Newbottle & Charlton School Update

The children returned from half term to a packed agenda of events and experiences, starting with a Viking visiting school! She led the class through many different aspects of Viking times and they all had a super day dressed in Viking style clothes and even having a Viking name!



It was also National Parliament week and much debating took place in classes. Phrases such as 'I respectfully disagree' were used and children in Birch class created their own parties and manifestos. Perhaps we have a future Prime Minister in our midst!

Our traditional annual PTFA Disco took place too. Children and staff enjoyed a good dance - some fine moves were seen and the evening concluded with sparklers for all.

Also we have had Anti Bullying Week; this year's theme is Change Starts With Us, focused on how small things and working together can make a better community for everyone. All children voted on how they feel about the school environment and a large majority believed that we do well. In teams children came up with pledges on little things to do to make school even better and happier. The Life Education bus came to school to help us look at areas of our Personal, Social and Health Education. Year 6 had a fabulous day exploring ways to be helpful citizens, learning signs and dangers to spot and how to deal with situations they may witness.

Such a busy time! Attention now turns to Christmas: Nativities, Christingles and Advent. We really enjoyed being part of the village Remembrance Service and look forward to joining in the Carol Service on 22<sup>nd</sup> December.

**We would like to invite you to our Christmas Community Tea on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm - hope you are able to join us.**

*Mrs Smith, Head Teacher*

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