

# CHARLTON LINK

Village News for the People of Newbottle & Charlton

ISSUE 416 DECEMBER 2023

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

**Something new for 2023!**

## **Living Advent Calendar in Charlton**

We're creating a live advent calendar around the village this December with residents decorating and lighting up a window in their home each evening and encouraging small moments of connection and joy in the dark December time.

Each day we'll pin the location of that day's window on Charlton Chat and the village hall noticeboard, along with timings and we hope that you'll pop out to see the brilliant imaginations of our community shining brightly.



## **CAROLS IN THE CAR PARK** **Christmas singing for everyone**

Wrap up warm, bring a torch and a mug for some mulled wine or hot chocolate.

**6pm Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December**  
**Upper car park, Village Hall**

Accordion accompaniment,  
other instruments welcome.  
Please bring change for the  
charity collection.



Read the Link in colour at [www.charltonandnewbottle.com](http://www.charltonandnewbottle.com)

Charlton Link Editor: Julia Rands, [juliarands@hotmail.com](mailto:juliarands@hotmail.com) 01295 812446

# Christmas Carol Service by Candlelight

St.James' Church, Newbottle  
6pm Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December

By the week before Christmas we can all be a little tired of the crowds, tinsel, shopping, food, and relentless pressure to have a wonderful time.

Remember what Christmas is really all about: come to your parish church (which looks wonderful by candlelight), hear the real Christmas story and sing the carols. There'll be mulled wine and mince pies to follow.



## *Decorating the church for Christmas*

We'll be decorating the church for Christmas on **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December**, beginning at 10am. If you'd like to help or to contribute, we'd love to see you. Some people like to give some flowers in remembrance of a loved one. We like white flowers best for Christmas. No expertise required! Coffee and biscuits provided!  
Any questions, please call Deborah Hayter (811176).



## Newbottle & Charlton School Update

Firstly we'd like to say a big thank you to Rhona and the team for welcoming the children from Oak class (Reception) to the Rose and Crown last month as part of their celebration topic.

They had such a wonderful time and were talking about it for days afterwards!

In the countdown to Christmas we have a number of school events planned including the lovely Nativity production and beautiful Christingle service.

Our special **Community Tea** is back, and invitations will be delivered in the next week or so. Come for refreshments in the school hall and hear the children perform some Christmas songs.

Please come to our **Mini Christmas Fayre** on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 2:40pm or join us for our **Christmas Service** at St James' church on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 9:30am.

Finally, some sad news, our amazing teaching assistant Mrs Hawes is retiring after 26+ years working at Newbottle and Charlton. We are holding a special assembly for her at 2:45pm on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December. I am sure she would love to see some of the ex-students, staff and parents she has worked with over the years so please come along if you are able to and spread the word to those you know that live outside Charlton.

If you have any memories or photos to share for the assembly, please contact the office, [bursar@newbottle.northants-ecl.gov.uk](mailto:bursar@newbottle.northants-ecl.gov.uk).

Thank you in advance!

Have a lovely Christmas,

*Mr Smith, Headteacher*

Newbottle and Charlton  
CEVA Primary School

**Mini  
Christmas  
Fayre**

Come join us for our Mini Christmas Fayre

Whole School Singing - Refreshments -  
Secret Santa (No Parents allowed) -  
Christmas Hamper Raffle- Xmas Game  
Stalls

Tuesday 19th  
December  
2:40pm-4pm

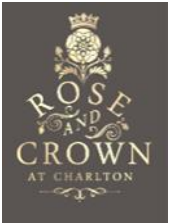
Here at Pre-School we are looking for a new  
Chairperson.

We would love for someone who would like to get  
involved in the community, would stay with us for a  
long period and really get to know the role.

If you feel you could give some time to supporting  
our Manager, attend committee meetings and get  
involved in fundraising, then we would love to hear  
from you!

If you feel you could take on this role, please get in  
contact via email

[newbottleandcharltonpreschool@outlook.com](mailto:newbottleandcharltonpreschool@outlook.com).



## Christmas 2023

Tis the season to eat, drink and be  
merry, so share Christmas with us

The pub will be open on  
Christmas Day for drinks from  
12noon until 3pm

Christmas Menus Available on our  
website or at the pub

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# Playing Field Update — what a year!

As we come to the end of year, it gives us a great opportunity to reflect on what we've achieved. As we write this piece we're excited to share that in 2023 we've raised over £5,000 for the playing field project. If we add this into the funds raised so far it takes us to just over £13,000, which is a fantastic achievement.

The main focus this year has been on our facilities, we've improved the car park, installed benches and picnic benches, refreshed our toilet and worked hard to get plans drawn up for the new pavilion. These plans, which, subject to approval by the Parish Council and the Trust, will enable us to submit planning permission before the end of the year. Within the planning submission we are planning to include the pump park, which will then allow us to progress our funding application with Valencia.



In December we're also excited to welcome back Guy our hedge laying man, to continue the work he started earlier in the year to the roadside hedge.



In 2024, we hope, we will be successful in obtaining grants for both the pump park and the pavilion. We also hope to extend the perimeter path across the bottom of the playing field across to Cartwright road too. We are currently working up our fundraising calendar of activities for the year, continuing with favourites like Quiz Nights, Family Bingo and our

Big Bike Ride, as well as supporting the sports activities with refreshments for both the football and the cricket.

As ever we'd love to have more volunteers to spread the work and also allow us to raise more money, so please do get involved if you can, no matter how little time you can give, we'd really appreciate it ([charltonplayingfields@yahoo.com](mailto:charltonplayingfields@yahoo.com)).





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Christmas is almost here, and we will soon say goodbye to 2023. It's been a momentous year, I hope it has been a good one for you.

As we hear the familiar details of the Christmas story retold this December it will be hard not to call to mind the current conflict in the Holy Land. Sadly this land has been contested for many centuries, and at the time of Christ's birth it was riven with conflict between differing peoples and nations.

We see God's response to this tragedy illustrated in the life of Jesus Christ. He went about ministering to people from all the warring factions. Each encounter, though small, made a difference. The purpose of each meeting was to bring peace, healing, wholeness and life in all its fulness to those whom Jesus met. Some rejected Him, others accepted Him. Lives were changed and continue to be changed by these little encounters with God. This is how God works, inviting, not compelling, us to follow Him into a better life.

That invitation is made afresh each day, and especially at Christmas when we recall those who first responded to the birth of Christ. Mary, Joseph, the shepherds and the three kings were from very different nations, traditions and social backgrounds, yet they all saw in this child a source of great hope. The source of this hope is God, and so it endures because it transcends time and space and the troubles of each generation.

To find out more about this hope, and what it means for us today, why not come along to our Christmas services? You will be very welcome. All the details are set out below. I hope you have a very Merry Christmas, and I wish you a Happy New Year.

Father Matthew

Tel. 811364, email: [fathermatthew.r@icloud.com](mailto:fathermatthew.r@icloud.com)

Facebook/St James's Church, Newbottle & Charlton

## FORTHCOMING SERVICES

EVERY SUNDAY IN CHURCH AT 9.30AM

WEDNESDAY 13TH DECEMBER AT 9.30AM

AN INFORMAL SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION, AT 7 CARTWRIGHT ROAD, FOLLOWED BY REFRESHMENTS

### **CHRISTMAS SERVICES:**

**SUNDAY 10TH DECEMBER, 6PM: CAROLS IN THE VILLAGE HALL CAR PARK**

**THURSDAY 14TH DECEMBER, 6.30PM: SCHOOL CHRISTINGLE SERVICE**

**WEDNESDAY 20TH DECEMBER, 9.30AM: SCHOOL CHRISTMAS SERVICE**

**THURSDAY 21ST DECEMBER, 6PM: CAROL SERVICE**

**CHRISTMAS EVE, 10PM: FIRST COMMUNION OF CHRISTMAS**

**CHRISTMAS DAY, 9.30AM HOLY COMMUNION**

*ALL ARE WELCOME*

## Nature Notes

We are writing this in November but we cut a whole lot of holly yesterday. This is not because we are going to start on the Christmas decorations yet (it is not even Advent), but because the holly has more berries than we ever remember. A few years ago we admired the holly berries in November but when we went to cut some for the house there were none left. The birds love them, so it pays to cut some good branches which last very well in a bucket of water in a cold place. There are enough left for the birds.

Holly berries are toxic to many animals, but wild birds can eat them. Birds naturally possess a high toxic tolerance, and they just aren't sensitive to the compounds in the berries that are poisonous to humans. We don't know which birds eat our berries, but we suspect blackbirds, and any passing redwings and thrushes. Birds also love elderberries, rosehips and haws (on hawthorns), but in this garden they don't get round to the beautiful red translucent berries on the guelder rose (not a rose - a native *viburnum*) until the weather is really cold and all else is gone. Perhaps these berries don't ripen fully until well into the winter, or perhaps they need a frost on them to make them palatable. Ivy berries are also a good food source in mid-winter, and possibly they also need a good frost to make them edible.

We used to have a pyracantha on the wall opposite the kitchen window, and every autumn it would be covered with handsome scarlet berries - a cheerful sight when doing the washing-up - but we never got to enjoy them for long as the blackbirds stripped the lot within a fortnight. Yet we have a huge pyracantha on the north gable with yellow/orange berries and these always remain untouched for months. We compete with the birds for the berries on several Cotoneaster bushes which are very decorative, and the one with yellow berries (*cotoneaster rothschildianus*) gets stripped just as quickly as the red ones.

It used to be said that when holly berries, hips and haws were particularly plentiful, it was because we were in for a hard winter, but of course this is nonsense as a tree cannot know what the weather has in store for us. As with the fruit trees in the orchard, the fruits are plentiful or not depending on what the weather was like in the past. Certainly many of the plants in this garden are telling us that they really liked having such a lot of rain during the summer: being on very freely-draining sandy soil this garden very quickly looks parched and unhappy in dry, hot weather.

We belong to Butterfly Conservation and their latest newsletter tells us that there are several moths which might be out and about in November. Moths have such lovely names: the ones you might possibly see are the Feathered thorn; the Black Rustic; the Red-green carpet; the Silver Y; the Merveille du Jour (a stunning emerald moth with black and white markings); and the December moth. Silver Y moths fly around 2,000 miles from the UK to northern Africa to overwinter. Some moth caterpillars have interesting food preferences, such as the rosy footman (lichen), and the silky wainscot (other invertebrates). The cinnabar moth lays its eggs on ragwort, which is poisonous, and the caterpillars absorb the toxin without ill effects (to them), but they then become unpalatable to predators.

Rather a lot about birds this month - though there are still flowers both wild and in the garden, and there are still trees that haven't dropped many leaves, despite the wind and the rain.

**Deborah and Paul Hayter**



## Pumpkin carving competition and fireworks bonanza

Judging for this year's pumpkin carving competition took place under the light of a very spooky and bright full moon. There were so many imaginative and fearsome carvings it was really hard to make a decision so we selected 4 highly commended runner-ups but our overall winner was Oscar. We especially loved the spooky snake eyes.

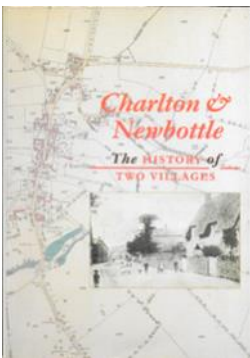


The following weekend we had a stall at a very wet and windy Brackley Fireworks Display and raised over £400 towards the Playing Field Project funds. A huge thank you to the dedicated Vanessa and family for not only organising it but also turning out on a very soggy and cold evening to run the stand.

## Village Hall work continues

After a busy summer of painting and updating the heating, maintenance work on the Village Hall continued in October half term with major drainage and flooring work for the main hall. We checked how far the damp damage had travelled – thankfully not too far - and we replaced a few joists. We have applied for funding to replace the vinyl floor and also the windows in 2024. You may also see more drainage investigations at the front of the hall in the coming weeks.

Trustees of the Village Hall meet regularly to manage bookings and make sure the hall is kept in good condition to accommodate village events. We have a good number of bookings and room for more! Email [bookings@charltonmemorialhall.co.uk](mailto:bookings@charltonmemorialhall.co.uk) for more details. If you'd like to become a Trustee to help look after this great village asset, please get in touch with [dellawolfe@thecurvegroup.co.uk](mailto:dellawolfe@thecurvegroup.co.uk)



Is there anyone in the village who doesn't have a copy of *Charlton & Newbottle: the History of Two Villages*?

We still have a few copies left at the bargain price of £12.50. A great Christmas present!

For sale from Walnut House, call 811176 or email [hayterp@gmail.com](mailto:hayterp@gmail.com).



**KATHARINE  
HOUSE  
HOSPICE**

We may be coming to the end of another year, but we've still got some of our most popular and much-loved events to come. Or why not think about helping our hospice by volunteering or hosting your own fundraising event? Your support makes such a difference at what

### **Remember a loved one**

We will be holding our annual Lights of Love event on Thursday 7 December at St Mary's Church, Banbury. We'd love you to join us for a special gathering where we come together to remember and celebrate the lives of those we have loved and lost. Find out more [www.khh.org.uk/lights](http://www.khh.org.uk/lights).

### **That's tree-mendous**

We're bringing our brilliant Tree-cycle scheme back once again! So instead of worrying about how to environmentally dispose of your tree after all the festivities are over, you can make a donation to Katharine House Hospice and, in return, we will send one of our elves to collect and recycle your tree. Head to our website to find out more [www.khh.org.uk/christmastree](http://www.khh.org.uk/christmastree)

### **Talking shop**

As well as raising vital funds for our hospice, our seven charity shops across the area help people to shop more sustainably. But we couldn't run our shops without a brilliant team of volunteers. Could you spare some time to volunteer at one of our shops? We desperately need help across all of our stores to make sure we can keep offering the same great service people have come to know and love. If you'd like to find out more about how you could volunteer in one of our shops, visit our website here: [www.khh.org.uk/volunteer-shops](http://www.khh.org.uk/volunteer-shops)

## **Fox House, Charlton**

We are the new owners of Fox House, the last house in Charlton heading north. The house was in the Covill family since the early 1960's until Elaine Covill's death last year. We lived in Syresham for 26 years before moving to Charlton.

We are continuing the Covill's tradition of looking after Clerk's Piece, the orchard next to Fox House, for the church. The 6 apple trees in the garden provide a good harvest of apples which we normally put down to cider (you can only eat so many apple crumbles!), but the orchard that Mrs Covill planted has many more! We are planning to plant a quince tree for quince jelly, Membrillo and a few Ottolenghi recipes.

We recently uncovered two fabulous Victorian fireplaces at Fox House which we hope to have restored and we found the well in the garden (with the help of Brian Markham who was born in Fox House). We look forward to hearing many more stories about the house and discovering more history. If you have any memories or photos of Fox House, please bump into us at the house or drop us a line at [foxhousecharlton@gmail.com](mailto:foxhousecharlton@gmail.com)

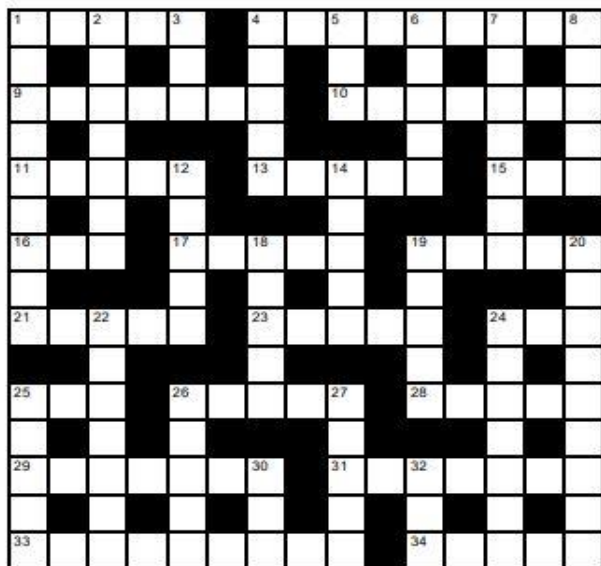
**All the best, Francine & David Wilkins**

## Christmas Crossword

Prizes of £50 and £25 vouchers for the Rose and Crown to the first two correct solutions drawn at random on Christmas Day. Entries to Greystones, opposite the pub or by email to [charlton@grandage.co.uk](mailto:charlton@grandage.co.uk)

### Across

- 1 Jolly hobbit (5)  
 4 Celebration of saviour with endless service (9)  
 9 A crease right in snail shaped shellfish (7)  
 10 Cross type of van (7)  
 11 Press axis for satirical sense of meaning (5)  
 13 Place ant in vegetation (5)  
 15 Sounds like a person who will inherit atmosphere (3)  
 16 Owns the middle of posh assets (3)  
 17 Put to use a soft fold (5)



- 19 A mass to accumulate (5)  
 21 Sailing vessel, Britannia for example (5)  
 23 Sit right for sitter (5)  
 24 Garden implement in thankless Tahoe (3)  
 25 Nineteen in short (3)  
 26 Lean hydrogen in cultivated land (5)  
 28 The French girl is lawful (5)  
 29 Not bothered about easy Edward (7)  
 31 Bolster sauteed shellfish (7)  
 33 Cite tasty mix up in town and country (4,5)  
 34 Explosion is second rate at the end (5)

### Down

- 1 Sentimentallyskim LH way around (9)  
 2 Spoil Oxford University's decay (7)  
 3 Go on a Tibetan ox (3)  
 4 Hears a bird sound is inexpensive (5)  
 5 Decay hill backwards (3)  
 6 Angle of bias (5)  
 7 Mum's ride, a thing for the eyes (7)  
 8 Woodland god spilled trays (5)  
 12 Bread ingredient as yet baked (5)  
 14 Bottomless gulf found in baby's socks (5)  
 18 Father and friend of the pope (5)

- 19 Month with fools at the start (5)  
 20 Sense a rodent and suspect wrongdoing (5,1,3)  
 22 Ring temperature in little hoop (7)  
 24 Lofty drink at a meal (4,3)  
 25 Curia reassembled about gold (5)  
 26 Reverse six at hired cars (5)  
 27 Divide in two replacing last of halva with drug (5)  
 30 Genetic material found in second nativity (3)  
 32 What to do in the ocean with your uncle! (3)

**A big festive thank you to Arabella and Nick Grandage for donating the prizes and to Nick for designing the annual crossword.**

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