

CHARLTON LINK

Village News for the People of Newbottle & Charlton

ISSUE 392 NOVEMBER 2021

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and our advertisers*



Find out about these wonderful pictures and what else the children at Newbottle and Charlton Primary School have been up to, on page 2.



And don't forget, if you want to see the Link in colour, you can find it on the village website:
www.charltonandnewbottle.com

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





Newbottle & Charlton School Update

Children are well into their class topics now with lots of learning across the subjects. The class topic for Oak (Reception & Year 1) and Ash (Year 1 & 2) is 'On the Move'. They are looking at different modes of transport and are creating their own vehicles using wheels and axels.

Elm class (Year 3 & 4) have been studying the Amazon Rainforest and creating some amazing art pieces (see front page), as well as learning about the different layers of trees and vegetation. Birch class (Year 5 & 6) are studying a topic called 'Angry Earth', learning about volcanoes and earthquakes and how they are formed.

Each week they have also been taking part in forest school where they learn about making dens, how to tie knots and how to light fires! (see front page).

We were able to go to church for our Harvest Festival service this year and it was lovely to have all the children together again with parents also joining us. Children delivered readings, read poems and prayers. Oak and Ash class looked for signs of autumn coming back to school and they were excited to see the horse chestnut tree outside the church.

We were able to have our Open Day this year but spread over 3 sessions. Our Year 5/6 tour guides did an amazing job in talking to the visitors about our school. If anyone missed the Open Day, then please contact the office.

Mr Smith , Headteacher



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It's been a busy month in the Parish Church. Our *Octoberfest21* was well supported, I hope that all who attended enjoyed the events. We are blessed to have such a wonderful building, in such beautiful surroundings, and it was a pleasure to be able to use it for this purpose. My thanks to all who organised and ran the event, and to the artists and local historians who took part.

It was a particular pleasure to be able to welcome our village school, and some parents, relatives and friends back into church for their Harvest Festival service. It's been a long time since we've been able to hold a service like that, but the children evidently felt at home in their parish church and sang and read beautifully. Very many thanks to all the pupils and staff, and especially Miss Dooley and Mr Smith for helping to organise the service.

This month the tone is a little more sombre as we enter into the season of Remembrance. As usual we will mark Armistice Day with a short outdoor Service of Remembrance at the War Memorial in Charlton Cemetery, and the fallen from our villages will also be remembered at our regular 9.30am service in church on Remembrance Sunday, which this year falls on the 14th November.

Looking further ahead to December; at 6pm on Sunday 12th December we will again be singing Christmas Carols in the Village Hall Car Park in Charlton. It was wonderful to see so many of you there last year when Covid regulations meant that we had little choice but to gather outdoors. Given its popularity we have decided to continue with this arrangement, and also hold our traditional Carol Service in church at 6pm on 22nd December. As ever you are most welcome to come along to all these events and our regular Sunday services.

Wishing you every blessing,

Father Matthew

Tel. 811364

fathermatthew.r@icloud.com

SERVICES IN NOVEMBER

Every Sunday in Church at 9.30am, including Remembrance Day: Sunday 14th November.

Armistice Day Service of Remembrance at the War Memorial in Charlton Cemetery: 11am on 11th November.

4th and 18th November: Prayer Group, with Holy Communion, at 7 Cartwright Road, Charlton.

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Nature Notes

We have just come to the end of Oktoberfest and some of us have spent time in Newbottle church enjoying lovely concerts. They were all enlivened by the presence of hornets. These are over-sized wasps of the same family. They have a brown thorax and yellow and brown stripes on the body, rather than the yellow and black of wasps. They have a very obvious 'waist' between the thorax and abdomen. What we have in this country is the European hornet (*Vespa crabro*), and as wasps do, the queens emerge from hibernation in spring and start to build their nests by chewing up wood into a sort of paper which is then made into a nest, in hollow trees or in cavities in buildings. Inside the nest, sterile workers hatch and look after the new young produced by the queen. At the end of the summer, reproductive males and queens develop and leave the nests to mate. The fertilised queens survive and hibernate while all the males die, along with the old queen. So all those hornets enjoying the music in Newbottle church were in their last weeks of life. Quite alarming as they are very big insects and were bumbling around occasionally bumping into members of the audience. Luckily no stings: it is apparently much less aggressive than the common wasp (we haven't seen many of those this last summer). Hornets are also important pollinators and they prey on species that feed on plants and crops, so in the early months of the summer they can be a gardener's friend.

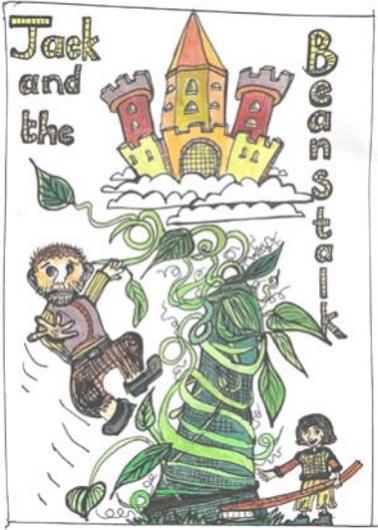
We did the Big Butterfly Count in July along with more than 100,000 other people. The results make sad reading as they showed the lowest ever numbers of butterflies spotted in the last 12 years. One of the things that all gardeners can do to help is to refrain from being over-tidy this autumn. Many butterflies and moths overwinter on plants in our gardens, in fallen leaves and dead stems and seeds. Some spend the winter as eggs stuck to the bark of trees and shrubs and only hatch out in the next spring when plants start growing again, others spend the winter as caterpillars camouflaged in leaf litter and the sort of dead matter that most of us tidy away.

Deer are doing well locally. One member of our family saw what she thought was about 100 deer in the fields above Charlton, more than she could count. Deer have no natural predators other than man and the increase in woods and trees mean that they have more suitable habitat. A Muntjac deer had an unfortunate collision early one morning with our car – unfortunate both for the deer and expensive for the car.

The most recent 'red list' report from Birdlife International had depressing findings about many of our native species. The researchers found that swifts and rooks were among those thought to be slipping towards extinction in Europe. For many years we have been saddened every summer by the lack of swifts above our garden: the screeching of swifts as they circled above was the sound of summer for us. We don't have a rookery nearby but we have always loved watching the sociable antics of rooks which live in groups and clearly argue, squabble and chat. These declines are due to loss of habitat, the intensification of agriculture, pollution and unsustainable forestry, but climate change is in fact helping some species, and targeted action for recovery and reintroduction has restored some raptors, like red kites, which have spread from the Chilterns and we now see often over Charlton.

Deborah and Paul Hayter

Jack and the Beanstalk, 16-19 February 2022



Panto rehearsals are in full swing, as can be seen in this photo! Della Wolfe explains: "When asked 'would you like to stand in for the cow?', always read what the actual scene is first!!!"



Panto tickets will be on sale from the second week of January. Make a note in your diary to avoid disappointment!

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Charlton Playing Field

The Playing Field Steering Group met again in October. We are now focussing on developing the business plan for the field, this will give us a comprehensive document that will detail the current status of the field, future potential, timescales & key milestone dates and funding opportunities.

We are aiming to finish this document by the end of November. The Steering Group meets again in early November and will provide further updates.

Charlton Memorial Hall

As we look to the future of the hall, the Trustees held a strategic session to enable us to plan investment decisions based on our user groups.

There has been an increase in booking enquiries, including a community choir that will begin on Tuesday evenings. The booking rate for village residents is excellent value, if you'd like to start a club or hold an event. Contact bookings@charltonmemorialhall.co.uk for further details.

Ongoing maintenance of the play park was also discussed. The plum trees will be trimmed this winter when they not in leaf and some minor repairs to the play equipment has taken place.



**KATHARINE
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What's on the cards this Christmas?

We have a fantastic range of Katharine House charity Christmas cards available to buy in our shops and online.

Are you a wrap star?

If you're nifty with ribbons and a dab hand at wrapping, then we need your help! We're looking for volunteers to help with our gift wrapping on 3 and 4 December at Banbury Castle Quay. These sessions help us to raise much needed funds for the hospice, so if you could donate some time to help then email getinvolved@khh.org.uk or visit www.khh.org.uk/collectiondays to find out more.

Santa Fun Run – 5 December

Forget mistletoe and wine, if you truly want to feel festive this Christmas then make sure to sign up to our Santa Fun Run. The race is taking place on Sunday 5 December at Spiceball Park, Banbury, and you have a choice of the 1.5km route or the full 5km – kitted out in stylish Santa suit, of course. Tickets are available to buy online now!

RC Baker Christmas Tractor Run – 18 December

The RC Baker Tractor Run is making a welcome return, bringing all the glitz and glam of Christmas. On Saturday 18 December, a fleet of fairy-lit tractors will be taking a tour around local villages to spread some Christmas cheer and raise money for Katharine House Hospice.

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