

CHARLTON LINK

Village News for the People of Newbottle & Charlton

ISSUE 386 MAY 2021

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

Charlton Produce Swap



Wednesday 19th May

3 – 7 pm

Village Hall Car park



Gardeners - bring your spare seeds, seedlings and plants

Cooks - bring your cakes, marmalade and goodies

Crafters - bring your cards, candles or whatever you make

Smallholders - bring your spare honey, vegetables and eggs

Everyone – come and buy!

**Even if you have nothing to contribute, come to see what
Charlton has produced – buyers are very welcome!**

Please label everything, make it portable and minimize plastic
packaging (please no bric-a-brac)

Your surplus will be someone else's desirables. Whatever you bring
will get you a voucher for someone else's surplus

Tea, coffee and cake from the Village Hall

Any possible profit to the church

NB. If any local services would like to advertise with us (for £5),
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Charlton Link Editor: Julia Rands, juliarands@hotmail.com 01295 812446

#Justice4Harry



Newbottle & Charlton School Update

We hope everyone had a lovely Easter break! The term has continued with the class topics that we started before Easter, then children will be moving onto their final topics of the academic year. Oak and Ash (reception to YR2) will be carrying out a topic called 'All things Bright and Beautiful'. Elm (YR 3-4) will be learning all about the Romans and Birch (YR 5-6) will be learning about the UK and the big change it went through during the industrial revolution.

There were some big changes in our playground at the end of term. We purchased some new fitness equipment to promote children being active during the school day. We replaced the broken bridge and extended the trim trail with a tyre section. We also bought some equipment where children can make their own obstacle courses. They have been very excited to play with this new kit. You might have also noticed we have new planters (kindly made by one of our parents) which surround our reflection area and fountain. The aim of this is to create a sensory garden for children to enjoy when outside while also learning about different plants and growing.

Finally, I would like to share some news with you about the headship of the school. After a rigorous interview process, the governors (with support from an advisor from the diocese) have appointed me as the permanent headteacher and I couldn't be more pleased in being able to continue in this role at Newbottle and Charlton CE Primary School.

Mr Smith, Headteacher



Charlton Wombles

Have you heard of the Charlton Wombles? It is a group initiated by Joanna Barrons, with many villagers making an ongoing commitment to keep tidy a part of the village.

The number of volunteers who stepped forward was swift and impressive but there is always room for more! If you want to get involved then please review the areas below, if it's a large area or a verge next to a road then more than one volunteer is better as these areas sadly need regular collections (marked with an * below). Also if there are missing areas then add yourself in! Let Joanna know at jbarons@btinternet.com or 01295 811727/07796 487729 or via Charlton Chat on Facebook.

We are counting up the bags of rubbish collected – 45 bin bags in March and 19 so far in April. This information is being shared with the council which has an initiative to keep the county tidy.

Joanna and Dougal have kindly offered to supply gloves and litter grabbers – either ask Joanna for your own or you could share with someone that already has theirs.

Good Luck Charlton! Let's keep our village tidy!

*King's Sutton Rd - Clodagh Green & Emma Stuchbury & Anita Harris

*Aynho Rd - Jane Lang & Arabella Grandage

*Brackley Rd - Charlotte Charles & John Townsend

*Farthinghoe Rd (crossroads onwards) - Cathy Hamer

*Newbottle Woods - Rachal Stoney & Mabel & Hattie Martin

Myers Way - Cynthia Lenton

Playing Field - Rebecca Tagg & Victoria Beadle

Main St/Farthinghoe Rd - Beccy Millard, Nicola Watson

Pub-Shop-Green Lane - Rhona Patterson

Airfield Lane & Newbottle Rd - Joanna Barrons

Newbottle Wods to crossroads - John Townsend

Main St & Drury Lane - Eleanor Bland

Hogg Lane, Park & The Jetty - Della Wolfe

Cartwright & Myers Close - Mabel Mary

Cemetery & church path - Bev Wright

Church path to crossroads - James Love



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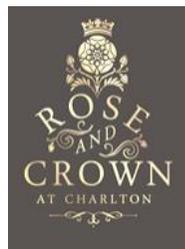


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as of 19th May**

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OFFICE**

In last November's edition of the Link I described the work we had begun in this parish to enable us to participate in a new local food bank scheme. A lot has happened since then and so, six months on, this seems a good time to take stock.

We were invited to take part in this project which had been set up by our neighbours in the Chenderit Benefice, centred around Middleton Cheney. The food bank now extends across half a dozen parishes covering the villages of Newbottle, Charlton, King's Sutton, Middleton Cheney, Chacombe, Greatworth, Marston St Lawrence, Warkworth and Thenford.

The pandemic has brought unexpected change to the lives of many households, and this has meant that the need for this initiative has quickly increased.

I'd like to thank everyone who has, or is, donating so generously to our stock of non-perishable food. Individual donations have been crucial to our work, and we have also received help from other food bank charities, and elsewhere.

The Church has found itself well suited to this role. Our established network of parishes means that we have good local knowledge and contact with other organisations and agencies that work in related fields.

Leaving aside the practicalities for a moment, it has also been an obvious and important way in which to live by our faith, to demonstrate what we believe by our actions. This project seems to me to perfectly embody the call of Christ to love our neighbour.

None of us know what the future holds, the last 12 months have driven that home to us, but I hope that we can continue to work in partnership with others to maintain and, where necessary, expand this initiative, while this need remains.

If you'd like to know more, and, crucially, if you or someone you know would like some assistance from the food bank, please don't hesitate to contact me on 811364 or fathermatthew.r@icloud.com.

Wishing you every blessing,

Father Matthew

CHURCH SERVICES IN MAY:

EVERY SUNDAY AT 9.30AM. ALL ARE WELCOME.

MINUTES OF THE NEWBOTTLE AND CHARLTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON ZOOM ON MONDAY 19 APRIL 2021 AT 7.30PM

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Theresa Goss (Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer), County & District Councillor Rebecca Breese and four member of the public.

APOLOGIES: None.

1. MINUTES - The minutes of the meeting held on 27 April 2020 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 27 April 2020.

3. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS - County and District Councillor Rebecca Breese had circulated her reports prior to the meeting. They had been made available on the Parish Council's web site.

A member of the public asked Councillor Breese about the reserves which were held by the new Unitary Authority. Councillor Breese gave a breakdown of the amounts which came from each of the authorities who formed the new Unitary Authority and advised that the funds could only be used for a capital programme or a project which generated income. The reserves could not be used for day to day costs.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Breese for her reports.

4. 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.

Councillor Linda Baker presented a report on Charlton WI and Della Wolfe presented reports on the Memorial Hall and Charlton Panto Players.

The Chairman thanked them for their reports.

5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – The Chairman of the Parish Council, Andrew Woods, reported on the work of the Parish Council during 2020/2021. Councillor Woods thanked the Councillors and the Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer, for their work over the last 12 months. The Chairman's full report was available on the Parish Council web site.

6. PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS 2020/2021 - The Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer presented to the Annual Parish Meeting, the Parish Council accounts for 2020/2021. 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.

The accounts had been made available on the Parish Council web site.

The Chairman thanked all of the outgoing Councillors, who were not standing in the Elections on 6 May 2021 for all of their hard work over a number of years; these were Richard Bland, Andrea Gladden, Diana Sheasby and Andrew Woods.

He then thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

(The meeting closed at 8.20pm)

Trelawney Wines moves to Charlton House Farm



As you may have seen in last month's Link, our local Brackley wine merchant has become even more local with its move to new, bigger premises at Charlton House Farm.

As the new office, Charlton House Farm allows Trelawney Wines to increase its storage and offering locally. Trelawney Wines has been supplying fantastic wines to homes and the hospitality sector since 2017. Despite experiencing a tough year with the closure of pubs and restaurants, the company is enjoying increasing success with its trusted local deliveries to homes around Brackley. Now in its fifth year, Trelawney Wines was set up by Tony Bates, who loves to source interesting vintages from independent growers to pass on to his customers.

If you're fed up and want to upgrade from your usual supermarket selection, why not try something different and browse Trelawney's wines at www.trelawneywines.co.uk/. The minimum order is just six bottles (mixed or the same wine) but with a case of 12, you get another bottle free!

Trelawney Wines has retail outlets at Evenley Forge Coffee and Culworth Forge Coffee. If you'd like some wine advice or a copy of the up-to-date wine list, contact Tony at info@trelawneywines.co.uk to make an appointment to meet or have a chat on the phone.

Go glamping in Charlton!

If you have guests coming to stay in the summer or you are worried about having guests stay in your home, we have 2 shepherd's huts available to rent for short stays. The huts sleep 6 people with x1 double bed and x4 singles (x2 bunks), minimum stay of 2 nights.

Situated at the bottom of Drury lane near the pub, the shepherd's huts are off grid, but have an outbuilding with loo, hot showers and a camping kitchen, with exclusive use of the whole site.

Costs - £100/night for weekends and £75/night midweek plus a £25 cleaning fee for each booking. The huts are open from April until the end of September.

You can book them on Airbnb or go to my website and book direct.

www.newbottleshepherdshuts.co.uk



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Charlton Fete goes ahead on Saturday 17th July 2021

The Fete raises essential funds for the upkeep of our St James Church, Newbottle and as we missed out in 2020, we need this year's Fete to be bigger and better than ever!

There will be a meeting to start organising the stalls for the Fete on **Thursday 6th May, 6pm** at The Cottage or on Zoom if necessary. We'd love some new ideas and new people to get involved.

Please contact Deborah Hayter on hayterdeborah@gmail.com if you'd like to be part of the 'event team'.

Organising a great Fete that's enjoyed by all is a big job but many hands make light work so please get in touch – no matter how little time you can contribute.

Charlton Memorial Hall

Due to the pandemic, regular and ad hoc bookings for the village hall were suspended for all but Charlton Preschool. We hope it won't be long before the Trustees can allow full use of the halls again.



Our next meeting is the **Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 8th June 2021 at 7pm**. This will be followed by a normal Trustees committee meeting. At this meeting we confirm the trustees for next year.

The meeting will be on Zoom so everyone can attend. The Trustees would be delighted 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.

Join the Zoom Meeting at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89155002230pwd=N3g3WGRZSWVpU1o3ZDhuOVQrWEZpUT09>

Meeting ID: 891 5500 2230

Passcode: 131119

Nature Notes

Last month we described how our lawn had been under attack from badgers for the previous two months. Eventually we decided that the grass was so destroyed that it would have to be replaced. This entailed using a turf cutter to lift what was left of the sward and then replacing with new turf. In the process a lot of cockchafer were found and it is no wonder the badgers are keen on them – they are large and obviously nutritious and juicy. After such a wet winter we are now in a dry spell and we are having to water the new turf as the ground is so dry.

Something has been nibbling the tops off the bluebells and we were inclined to blame the muntjac deer, but then we noticed that our snakeshead fritillaries seemed to have very few flowers coming out – though they had been covered in buds a week or so ago. Apparently this is down to pheasants who are partial to them – and they have neatly eaten the buds off a whole row of tulips too. So annoying! Snakeshead fritillaries are a native wild flower of damp haymeadows, a habitat which is much reduced in the wild. Our garden is not really as damp as they would like but we have them in the dampest bit we've got and they are surviving if not spreading very readily – and of course if they don't get a chance to set seed because of the pheasants they will never manage to spread by themselves.

We've had some sunny weather as well as some snow flurries, and the warm spring sun has encouraged early butterflies. As well as Brimstone butterflies, we have had the first Orange-tip and also a Holly Blue. Orange-tips lay their eggs on plants in the crucifer family (these have flowers with four petals in a cross shape), especially Cuckooflower or Lady's smock (usually in dampish places but there's a verge in Kings Sutton full of it) and Garlic Mustard along road verges and the bottoms of hedgerows. We provide some Garlic Mustard in this garden but the Orange-tip apparently also lays its eggs on Honesty and Sweet Rocket in gardens, though the larvae don't appear to survive very well on these. So we feel guilty about that, as the garden is full of both those plants.

If you see a blue butterfly at this time of year it will be a Holly Blue, as the other blues don't appear until later in the year. They lay their eggs on Holly in the spring and then there is a summer generation laid on Ivy.

The local wildlife trust laid on an online session about amphibians which we attended recently. We were looking forward to finding out more about our newts, but we are now in complete confusion about whether they are actually Smooth Newts or Great Crested Newts. It was confirmed that the presence of newts is the reason why we don't see any frog spawn or tadpoles: if frogs ventured into our pond the newts would certainly eat all of their offspring.

More than a million people counted birds in this year's RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch, double the previous year, which shows that many people have become newly engaged with their local wildlife during the lockdowns. Sadly, the survey shows that only robins, blackbirds, carrion crows and the song thrush had done better than last year. The numbers of house sparrows, blue tits and starlings, while still the commonest birds in gardens, were lower than last year. Though we seem to have lots of starlings in the garden, nationally their numbers have gone down by 83% since 1979. We haven't seen a song thrush in this garden for years – they were only seen in 10% of gardens. And we have so many snails for them.

Charlton Growing Competition

We're excited to confirm that the Rose & Crown will be sponsoring the very first Charlton Growing Competition taking place from May through to September. We're putting a call out to all those with green fingers or those with a competitive spirit to take part to grow either a pumpkin or a sunflower.

We'll be looking for pumpkins that are HUGE in size, or maybe are the perfect shape or those that resemble something funny and for sunflowers we'll be looking for the tallest, the one with the largest head or the ugliest..!

Judging will take place at a family fun day in September (sunflower submission date and method to be advised!). Our judges will be representatives from our community groups. We'd love for as many people to get involved as possible, so why not give it a go?

Seeds, growing timetable, entry details, competition rules and more information will be published on Charlton Chat Facebook, on posters in Charlton Village Shop & Post Office, and on the notice-board outside the Memorial Hall.



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