

CHARLTON LINK

Village News for the People of Newbottle & Charlton

ISSUE 379 OCTOBER 2020

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Charlton Tennis Tournament



The sun shone on a glorious September Saturday for the 'Non-Fete' Tennis Tournament in Charlton. Due to COVID restrictions, the Open Gardens and Treasure Trail planned for the day couldn't take place but 25 socially distanced tennis pairs took part in competitive matches throughout the day.

The finals took place on the grass courts of The Cottage. Congratulations to the victorious pair of Lucy Brown and Matt Thame who beat Jennifer Spiers and Adrian Illingworth into runner up position in the final. As a vital fundraiser for St James Church in Newbottle, £750 was raised. Thanks to all who took part.

www.charltonandnewbottle.com

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Nature Notes

We were told recently about a fishing adventure in Oxford when the fisherman was astonished to find at the end of his line something that looked like a smallish lobster. He didn't know what it was and threw it back but has now discovered that he should have killed it as it is an alien species. Once caught, it shouldn't be returned to the river. Our native White-Clawed crayfish is smaller, less than 12 cm, (4 ½ inches) in length and is threatened by the North American signal crayfish, which can reach 16–18 cm. They are distinguished by having red undersides to their claws.

Apparently the signal crayfish was introduced to UK waters in the 1970s as a commercial species for growing for the lucrative Scandinavian market, but it is a carrier of crayfish plague and thought to be responsible for passing this deadly disease to the native crayfish. These alien crayfish soon escaped from commercial fisheries and began to outcompete the natives for habitat and food.

We have seen some exciting caterpillars in the garden recently. We think one was the caterpillar of the Scarlet Tiger moth: it was black along the top with yellow on the sides and white spots. We saw a few of the adult moths in the garden earlier in the year. We also saw a very distinctive bright yellow caterpillar, thickly covered with long yellow and orange hairs with white spots outlined in black along its back. By comparison the adult moth – the Sycamore moth – is one of the boring greyish ones that flies at night – much more difficult to distinguish. The larva feeds on various maples and also on lime and mulberry, all of which we have in the garden.

At the time of writing we are at the end of another warm dry spell and this has caused the badgers to think that this garden is just where they want to be every night for all the goodies under the grass. Every morning for a week there has been a scene of devastation as they have attacked another section of what had been mown lawn. After their visits it looks as if a mini battle of the Somme has taken place. They are apparently after the leatherjackets, grubs, earthworms and slugs. Leather-jackets are the grubs or larvae of crane-flies, usually known as daddy-long-legs, and they can be destructive of lawns too, by eating through the roots of the grass and causing patches to die. Hard to know which is worse – the badgers or the leather-jackets.

It's always bad news when we find a new badger latrine pit: they put these on the outskirts of their territory, meaning that they think it is their territory – and we dispute this. Their latrines are very neat: a tidy round hole with their faeces neatly placed within.

Despite the very warm weather at the moment, autumn is definitely on the way: we heard the first skein of geese going over, and we had reports of a flock of fieldfares arriving over in Essex. These are winter visitors and September is very early for them to be arriving. The seasons have all been early this year and perhaps the British berries on which they depend in the winter have already ripened – in which case, how did the fieldfares know?

Deborah and Paul Hayter



Newbottle & Charlton School Update

It has been a strange few months in school not seeing all the children, but it was lovely to be able to open for all pupils (including 19 new reception children) at the start of September.

Teachers were busy during the summer making the classrooms ready for all children to return and planning activities to help children settle back into school life. The focus has been on support: socially, emotionally, behaviourally, as well as academically. We know that children have a range of starting points in the different subjects. Teachers planned fun lessons to assess children informally so they can offer support and challenges, as they identify what the children have mastered during home learning and what they need to revise or consolidate. We have modified some of our procedures from the summer and the children have adapted so quickly into the new routines within school.

We started our learning as we do every year with a whole school topic. This year we focussed our learning looking closely at a beautiful picture book called the 'The Lost Words' by Jackie Morris and Robert Macfarlane. Children were read the story about how words from nature were disappearing across the country. Each page included magical watercolour illustrations which inspired them to create their own art work. Some classes walked around the village and collected natural materials to do leaf printing called **Hapa Zome** and collected berries to do tie-dyeing. Lots of fantastic poetry was created with nature themes too.



Children have now started their class topics for the rest of the term which include 'World Kitchen', 'Stone and Bones' and 'Fire and Festivals'.

Due to current guidance we are unable to have our normal October Open Morning this year, but we have created a virtual tour which will be on our website before half term, so you can see our fantastic school in action.

Mr Smith, Interim Headteacher

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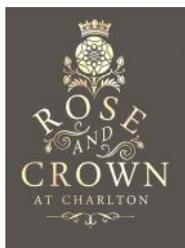
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CHURCH

<https://newbottlechurch.weebly.com>

Perhaps, like me, you have caught a glimpse of the harvest being gathered in over recent weeks. Of course we've seen it many times before, but in this year of all years it seems to me to be particularly comforting. The disruption of our normal routines, not to say our hopes and expectations for this year, has been swift and painful, and so this reminder of the turning of the seasons, apparently undisturbed by all the upheavals going on in the world, was good to see.

We have kept our Harvest Festival in Church, albeit on a different scale to previous years, and with social distancing and other protective measures. The recently announced 'rule of six' does not stop public worship and so our doors remain open for our weekly service at 9.30am, and you are most welcome to come along.

Reflecting on the harvest has also been useful when seeking to discern some sort of way forward during the pandemic. I've naturally hoped for quick answers, a vaccine, or some other route to a swift return to 'normality'. However, the future still looks uncertain and there's nothing I can do to quicken the process of recovery, anymore than I, or anyone else, can decide that next year we will move the harvest to April or May.

Are we then essentially at the mercy of the seasons or events? For Christians the answer is an emphatic no. God is present throughout human history, and like the harvest we shall see the fruits of his presence in the fullness of time, but not perhaps at a time of our choosing. How we fill that gap, the time before his purposes are revealed, is our challenge, and the Church offers answers in the form of prayer and spiritual guidance which can make this time of waiting useful and enriching.

You are always welcome to contact me at the Vicarage on 811364.

With my prayers and best wishes,

Fr Matthew

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KATHARINE HOUSE HALLOWEEN BALLOON RACE – 31 OCTOBER 2020

After the success of our previous virtual balloon races, we thought we would host another! This time starting from the home of Dracula and heading on a journey to win £500! If you would like to join the race and be in with a chance of winning a prize, head to www.khh.org.uk/halloween-balloon-race

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF

We have started a new series of 'A day in the life of Katharine House' featuring stories from our staff, as they talk us through a 'normal' day at Katharine house. You can read more here > <https://www.khh.org.uk/a-day-in-the-life-of-katie>

Notes of the Newbottle Parish Council Meeting
Monday 21 September 2020 at 7.30pm
www.newbottleparishcouncil.co.uk

Present – Councillors: Councillors Linda Baker, Richard Bland, Andrea Gladden, Adrian Kelly, Michael Loggin, Diana Sheasby and Andrew Woods, Theresa Goss (Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer) and one member of the public.

Apologies – None

Minutes - The minutes of the meeting held on 20 July 2020 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Relocation of Speed Signs – When the speed signs were relocated on Farthinghoe Road, the poles should have been left in place, as they were due to be used for new signage and the VAS. This had been followed up with the County Council but the work to replace them was still yet to be completed. The repair to the current post would also be discussed with the County Council.

Housing Needs Survey – The results had been forwarded to the Parish Council and a response would be sent back to Midland Rural Housing with a number of queries.

Planning - The Parish Council was considering the following planning application and comments would be forwarded to South Northants Council in due course:

S/2020/1567/MAF

Forceleap Farm Road to Hinton Airfield, Newbottle

Conversion and extension of existing historic agricultural buildings to form a rural centre at Forceleap Farm. This is to include; 6 x office units (B1 use class), 2 x residential units for agricultural workers, 4 x rooms for short term / holiday lets, an events space, and the associated landscaping, servicing and access.

Free Food Boxes – The delivery of the free food boxes in the village has now ended and thanks would be passed to Middleton Cheney Parish Council for their support with the deliveries.

Meeting Dates - Future meetings, all starting at 7.30pm would be held on Zoom until further notice. Please contact the Clerk for the joining details.

16 November 2020

All welcome to attend!

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

You can also follow Newbottle Parish Council on Facebook

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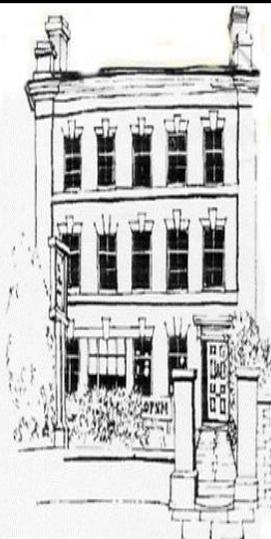
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