

CHARLTON LINK

Village News for the People of Newbottle & Charlton

ISSUE 376 JULY 2020



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CHURCH

<https://newbottlechurch.weebly.com>

As I write this we are preparing to re-open St James's Church after three months of closure during lockdown. I know that the easing of recent restrictions is the cause of differing reactions. Some people are relieved and glad to be returning to something closer to the life we knew, but some are fearful or anxious.

The church will initially be open for private prayer. Anyone is welcome to drop in and we just ask that visitors maintain the hygiene and social distancing measures that continue to apply. At present we anticipate opening the building on Saturday mornings, on Sundays, and on a day during the week. Full details of the opening times will be available on our parish website www.newbottlechurch.weebly.com and our Facebook page (St James's Church, Newbottle & Charlton).

But why go? Perhaps you often pray and have visited our parish church many times, perhaps not. Apart from the emotions I have already described the Coronavirus has, and will, touch our lives, our hearts and minds, in many ways, and the church is a good place to take those thoughts and feelings. It is a place that has been set aside for this purpose, somewhere that our forbears visited in times of plague and war, of personal joy, or national rejoicing, and at times of personal or global crisis.

As the poet T S Eliot wrote about another little country church, not unlike ours, "*If you came this way, Taking any route, starting from anywhere, At any time or at any season, It would always be the same...*" In other words this ancient place is where we can encounter the God who never changes. We've seen how quickly our world can be turned upside down, but if you visit your parish church I hope that when you are there you will find comfort and peace.

With my prayers and good wishes,

Fr Matthew

www.charltonandnewbottle.com

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Nature Notes

The really sharp frost we had in the second week of May revealed how tender the young growth is of many plants which are hardy enough to survive the worst that any English winter could inflict on them. The young shoots in the ash hedge along the Farthinghoe road were burnt black where the morning sun caught the frosted tips; the same thing happened to our beech hedge where the new shoots on the east-facing side looked as if they had been burnt. And all sorts of other things – hydrangeas, the box hedges, some herbaceous plants – were all badly affected. The worst was our mulberry tree: every single new leaf was blackened and killed, and though it has recovered and put out some new leaves, it looks as if some of the ends of the branches are actually dead, and there won't be any mulberries this year. Even more serious than that, we had had a very promising large crop of purple plums and greengages coming along and every single one is now blackened and shrivelled, so no plums this year, though the damsons have survived. We've just noticed that the raspberries were badly affected too so we're really sad about them. Oddly enough we have seen that the wild cherries round and about are managing to produce cherries so it didn't affect them.

Setting out some plants near the house we disturbed a large toad – good thing it hadn't got spiked by the fork. We were so pleased to see it as we hadn't seen a toad in the garden for a long time. We used to see one regularly by the back door, and one summer evening when the door was open we met one halfway across the kitchen floor. Picking up a toad is surprising: people think that they are slimy but they are in fact cool and dry. And they don't hop to startle you like frogs do.

The very warm dry spring has been fairly good for butterflies though the accompanying drought wasn't good for many of the food plants that their caterpillars depend on. The success story of this year is the small tortoiseshell: these were in serious decline nationally for reasons which no-one could fathom, but there now seem to be lots about – we counted 15 in one day in this garden, mainly feeding on valerian flowers, one of our best weeds which seeds itself about in pink and white.

There has been a good crop this year of a plant known as 'Jack-go-to-bed-at-noon' (*Tragopogon minor*) all along the church path. This has a flower superficially like a dandelion, but is taller and has a distinctive ring of pointed green sepals round the yellow petals. It has mostly gone over now and produces 'dandelion clocks' which are rather beautiful in construction. We haven't tried blowing them to tell the time – do children still do this? It has its country name because it opens in the morning but closes by lunchtime. The Pyrenean Cranesbill is doing well along the church path too. This produces smallish pinky-purple geranium flowers, but lots of them, and next to a hedge will scramble up amongst it, though its normal habit is about a foot tall.

There's a lovely crop of ox-eye daisies in the Stonepits field. These do well in many road verges too where they are not cut. We were pleased to see the Pyramidal Orchids appear in the Stonepits field too, in the same place as in previous years.

Tea for Two?

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All proceeds go towards Olivia's 2021 school expedition to Madagascar. Please note, our kitchen is not nut-free and items contain gluten and dairy ingredients

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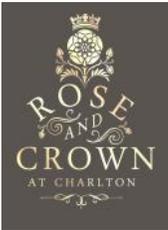
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We are pleased to announce...

We will be reopening on 4th July 2020

All measures have been taken to make your
experience & time with us safe and enjoyable

Opening hours are still to be confirmed and
whether it will only be the garden and limited
seating inside is still unsure

BUT

We will be open for lunch and dinner on 4th
July and look forward to seeing you for a pint
or three!

**Bookings are now open,
Call us on 01295 811317**

Thank you for your continued support

FREE FOOD BOX DELIVERY

*The Parish Council continues to
distribute free food boxes to
residents of Newbottle & Charlton
every Thursday.*

*They are for anyone who is in need
eg, self isolating, elderly, no income
etc. The deadline for an order is 12
noon on a Monday and they are
delivered on a Thursday.*

*Please email Theresa Goss, Clerk to
the Parish Council, at [newbottleparish-
council@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:newbottleparish-council@yahoo.co.uk) or ring 01295
710965 to place your order.*

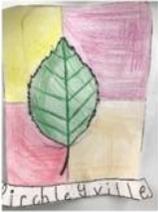




Newbottle & Charlton School Update

Last month, we said goodbye to Mrs Smith who secured a new headship at a larger school in Oxfordshire. We were able to present her with some gifts and virtual messages to make her last day special even though school only contained a few children and adults. I know she very much appreciated all the kind words and cards. We will be welcoming her back in for a more traditional send-off when we can.

The start of this term has been a super strange one, for us all. Having spent 11 weeks opening for just key workers, we welcomed children from reception, Year 1 and 6 and it was lovely to hear the sounds of happy children in all the classes but we are still missing seeing the whole of our school community. Following the government guidance, we implemented plans put in place before half term. Each classroom turned into a bubble with a maximum of 15 children to remain separate from other groups of children; including at break and lunchtimes. We have put up new signage and have staggered times for the start and end of the day to minimise the mixing of people.



We decided to informally call our bubbles 'Kingdoms' and each group came up with their own name and crest. Our kingdoms are Oaken, Ashrelia, Elmbottle and Birchleyville.

Our focus since the wider opening has been on the children's wellbeing and helping them to transition back into school life, revising basic maths skills etc. Teachers have also planned lessons on their summer topics which include 'Ancient Greeks', 'Our Local Area' and 'Dragons and Castles'. We have also continued the provision of home learning for the children not in school and teachers and staff have been working really hard to support all children including virtual live lessons every week. As we can't do our normal transitions into new classes this year we are currently trying to put in plans for some face-to-face contact for all our pupils before we break up for the summer.

Very sadly we say good-bye to Mrs Thomas at the end of this term, who has worked at our school for 5 years. She has gained a promotion as a full-time inclusion lead in a larger school in Oxfordshire. We wish her all the best in her new adventure. The governors and I have completed interviews for her replacement and from September we welcome Miss Smith (no relation) as our new SENCO and class teacher.

As there is still so much unknown for how schools will operate in future months, the governing body (in consultation with the Diocese of Peterborough), has decided to make me Interim Headteacher until September 2021. This provides the stability for the school in the next year. I look forward to keeping you updated with what we have been doing and hopefully in the future we can invite members of the community back into school.

I hope you have a great summer.

Mr Smith, Interim Headteacher

We are happy to announce that Pre-School opened its doors back at the village hall on 1st June for all children. We have had to put into places lots of extra planned measures to ensure everyone is kept as safe as possible.



We have had a good response to children coming back and they are all settling back into a good routine. It is lovely to see them all again, how they have grown and matured over their time at home. We have welcomed some new children whose pre-school/nurseries have either had to close or have not yet re-opened.



The children have enjoyed seeing their friends and being able to mix with other children again, bringing a bit of normality back into their lives.

One of our first tasks was to make Father's Day cards, working on our cutting skills.

The Rose and Crown Takeaway Menu

(Chips can be substituted for rice, sweet potato fries or salad)

All Pizzas £11.00 – see pizza menu

Gammon, Egg and Chips £11.00

Chicken Cesar Salad £11.00

Beef Burger and Chips £11.00 Add: Cheese £1 or Bacon and Cheese £2

Piri Piri Chicken Burger £11.00

Scampi and Chips £11.00

Whitebait and Chips £11.00

Jungle Chicken Curry and Rice £11.00 Add: Prawns £3

Fish and Chips £11.00

Chicken Strips and Chips £11.00

Steak and Ale Pie with Chips, Veg and Gravy £11.00

Salt and Pepper Squid and Chips £11.00

Veg Samosa and Veg Spring Roll Combo and Chips £11.00

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**KATHARINE
HOUSE
HOSPICE**

VIRTUAL QUIZ – EVERY TUESDAY

Join with family and friends, at a distance, and take part in our weekly quiz. There are prizes to be won

and fun to be had, all whilst supporting those with life-limiting illness in our community. Sign up at www.khh.org.uk/quiz

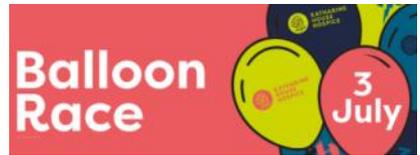


CARE FOR A COCKTAIL

Join us for this year's Care For A Cocktail Campaign! It's a great way to share some time with family, friends and colleagues, at a distance. Perfect for those after work's drinks, to celebrate someone's birthday, or to enjoy getting creative and sharing new recipes with friends. Why not get involved and hold your own Virtual Care For a Cocktail event. www.khh.org.uk/cocktail

HARRY POTTER THEMED VIRTUAL BALLOON RACE – 3 JULY 2020

Looking for something to do with the kids? Why not join our Virtual Balloon Race, as this time we lift-off, straight from Hogwarts!! A great way to spend time with family and friends, at a distance! Enter your balloon today at www.khh.org.uk/balloon



CORALIE BICKFORD-SMITH SIGNED SCREEN PRINTS – 1 JULY 2020

On the 1 July Katharine House will be auctioning off two signed prints kindly donated by renowned Author and Illustrator Coralie Bickford-Smith. Two signed screen-prints from her third and most recent book *The Song Of The Tree*, will be up for auction on our eBay site for one week only from 1 July www.ebay.co.uk/katharinehousehospiceshop

Bickford-Smith is one of the most renowned designers in the publishing industry, especially recognised and celebrated for her illustrated covers of Penguin's clothbound classics. Her first book, *The Fox and the Star*, was named Waterstones Book of the Year and as one of Time Out's 100 Children's Books of All Time. Her design work has been featured in numerous publications, including the New York Times and the Guardian.

BRACKLEY HOSPICE SHOP RE-OPENED

The phased re-opening of our shops began with the Brackley Store opening on 25 June, with donations accepted after 28 June. Please check our website and social media to check when your local store will be re-opening www.khh.org.uk/retail

KATHARINE HOUSE PETS FACTOR - JULY

We are hosting a Pets Factor competition this July for all creatures big and small! There will be a two week long competition of which you can enter your pet into numerous categories, show off your pride and joy, and you could even win a prize! Please check our social media channels throughout July to find out more! Instagram @khhosp Facebook @KatharineHouse

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