

# CHARLTON LINK

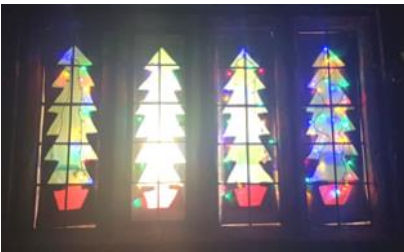
Village News for the People of Newbottle & Charlton

ISSUE 417 JANUARY 2024

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and our advertisers*

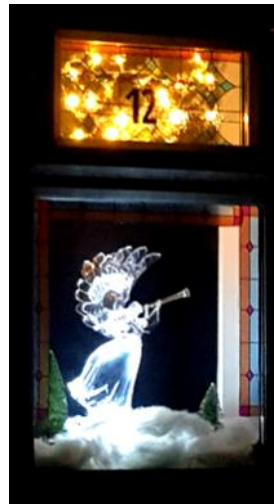
## Advent windows a triumph!

Well done and thank you to every home in Charlton that treated us to a lovely Christmas display in December. 24 homes were decorated and lit up each evening and we enjoyed discovering where each new window would be displayed every day. Thank you to the Playing Field volunteers who organised the event. Here and overleaf are just some of the wonderful windows that brightened up the dark evenings in December!



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



If you missed some of the windows in person or would like to see photos of all 24 windows in colour, check out the Charlton Playing Field Facebook page.

## Would you like to join a friendly choir and sing for fun?

Fabula Community Choir is open to all and is based at Kings Sutton Church Rooms. We get together on Wednesday evenings, 6.15-7.15pm, to sing a wide range of popular songs.

We would love to welcome new members, the cost is £4 per session. No auditions required! Get in touch with Emma Perry on [emma.perry@astrop.co.uk](mailto:emma.perry@astrop.co.uk) or just come along for a taster session.



# Charlton Calendar 2024

<p>January</p> <p>17th - Parish Council Meeting</p>	<p>February</p> <p>14th - Ash Wednesday Service , St James' Church</p> <p>26th - Quiz Night - in aid of the playing field</p>	<p>March</p> <p>10th - Mothering Sunday Service, St James' Church</p> <p>16th - Family Easter Bingo (5pm-7pm) - in aid of the playing field</p> <p>16th, 17th, 19th, 21st &amp; 23rd Springfest , St James' Church</p> <p>18th - Parish Council Meeting</p> <p>24th - 9.30am Palm Sunday Family Service, St James' Church</p> <p>26th - Community Tea, Newbottle &amp; Charlton School</p> <p>28th - Maundy Thursday; Holy Communion, St James' Church</p> <p>29th - Good Friday Service of reflection &amp; meditation, St James' Church</p> <p>31st - Easter Day Service, St James' Church</p>
<p>April</p> <p>15th - Parish Council Annual Village Meeting</p>	<p>May</p> <p>13th - Countryside &amp; Wildlife Quiz - in aid of the playing field</p> <p>20th - Parish Council Meeting</p> <p>Head in the Clouds - in aid of the playing field</p> <p>Plant &amp; Produce Swap - in aid of the local food bank</p>	<p>June</p> <p>8th - Big Bike Ride - in aid of the playing field</p> <p>9th - Open Farm Sunday</p> <p>9th - 2pm Charlton vs Fritwell Cricket Match (at Charlton)</p> <p>23rd - 2pm Charlton Village vs Rose &amp; Crown Cricket Match</p>
<p>July</p> <p>6th - Children's Charity Car Wash - in aid of the playing field</p> <p>7th - 2pm Charlton vs Hinton Cricket Match (at Charlton)</p> <p>13th - Charlton Fete &amp; Tennis Tournament in aid of St James' Church</p> <p>15th - Parish Council Meeting</p> <p>18th - Community Tea, Newbottle &amp; Charlton School</p> <p>28th - St James's Day Service (our Patron Saint), St James' Church</p>	<p>August</p>	<p>September</p> <p>Panto 2025 auditions &amp; rehearsals begin</p> <p>16th - Parish Council Meeting</p> <p>22nd - Harvest Festival - St James' Church</p> <p>27th - Charity Auction - in aid of the playing field</p>
<p>October</p> <p>Charlton Halloween Activities - in aid of the playing field</p>	<p>November</p> <p>11th - Act of Remembrance - War Memorial</p> <p>18th - Parish Council Meeting</p> <p>Quiz Night - in aid of the playing field</p>	<p>December</p> <p>Charlton Living Advent Calendar</p> <p>15th - Carols in the Car Park</p> <p>Carol Service - St James' Church</p> <p>24th - Christmas Eve; First Communion of Christmas, St James' Church</p> <p>25th - Christmas Day; Holy Communion, St James' Church</p>

## Carols in the Car Park kicked off village festivities

Thanks to the Parish Council for the Christmas tree this year and to those who put the lights on ready for the 'lighting up' at the start of carols in the car park. The carols were enjoyed by many Charltonians again, helped along with a mug of mulled wine or hot chocolate and a mince pie!

The draw for the winner of the Barrow of Booze was made and the raffle contributed to the £270 raised for the Playing Field in December. In addition, £72 was also donated by carollers to the local Parish Foodbank.



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## Nature Notes New Year's Quiz

If you've been paying attention, you'll know the answers to all of these questions.

1. When starlings flock together at the end of a winter's day, what is that called?
2. What is the foodplant of the Brimstone butterfly caterpillar?
3. How can you always tell the leaf of an Elm tree from any other tree?
4. What colours of violets do we find around Charlton?
5. Which is our only native maple?
6. Which of these geraniums would we never find wild in or around Charlton? *Geranium pratense*, *geranium molle*, *geranium pyrenaicum*, *geranium maderense*, *geranium lucidum*, *geranium robertianum*? (These are true geraniums, not the ones we buy from the garden centre for the summer, which are really Pelargoniums.)
7. Which are the raptors that we see most often in the sky above Charlton?
8. When green woodpeckers visit the garden, what are they after?
9. There is a good-sized colony of a (locally) very rare plant in the cemetery - what is it?
10. What colour are the flowers of Lady's Bedstraw - there are lots in the Stonepits field?
11. Which might we see in our garden - a hummingbird or a hummingbird hawkmoth?
12. When does the Big Garden Bird Watch take place?
13. Which of the following members of the tit family is least likely to be seen in Charlton: blue tit, great tit, coal tit, willow tit, long-tailed tit, marsh tit?
14. Which two species of deer do we see in Charlton?
15. When does the Big Garden Bird Watch take place?
16. Where do we see Jack-goes-to-bed-at-noon every year?
17. What bird never lands on the ground but spends its whole life airborne except when nesting?
18. What are badgers after when they dig up the lawn?
19. Name two species of butterfly that migrate to and fro across the Mediterranean?
20. Where do swallows go in the winter?
21. What kind of insect is a hawker?
22. Sloes are the fruit of which plant?
23. Which poisonous plant is host to the cinnabar moth - it grows in the Stonepits field?
24. Name two species of orchid that have been found in the Stonepits field.
25. In which month of year are we likely to see moles above ground?

Answers will be provided in next month's *Charlton Link*.

**Deborah and Paul Hayter**



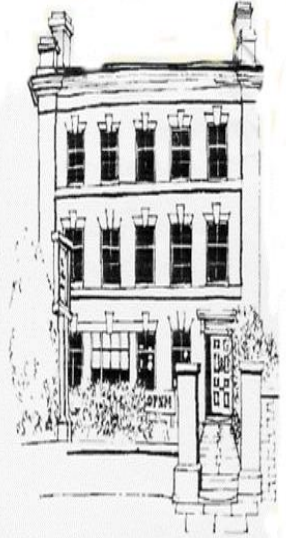
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We would like to thank all of you who  
 have supported us throughout 2023

We would also like to wish you and  
 your families a Happy New Year!

*Happy  
 New Year*



## **Newbottle & Charlton School Update**

It was lovely to welcome local residents to the school for our Community Tea. The children sang some Christmas songs and the Year 6s enjoyed serving tea and cake and biscuits made by

two of our classes. Our next one will be around Easter time (see village calendar for all the dates).

The school EYFS and Key Stage 1 Nativity was a great success. It was called 'A little Bird Told Me', about a Bird who travelled to see the Baby Jesus and met Angels, shepherds and kings on the way.

The services for Christingle (despite the addition of a bat flying in the church during one of the songs) and Christmas went well and the singing was beautiful.

It was lovely to see so many at our Mini Christmas Fayre. It was a great way to end our term. Thanks to the Year 6s, staff and PTFA for their supporting running different stalls.

We also said farewell to the amazing Mrs Hawes, who retired after 26 years at Charlton school. We celebrated her time at school with a special assembly which included a school song about her, a poem from staff and pupils and some lovely cards and gifts from pupils, parents, staff and governors. We will miss her lots! On the first day back on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January we have our Epiphany service at 9:30am, which you are welcome to join.

We are going on a whole school trip to Peterborough cathedral on the Friday 5<sup>th</sup>, which we do every 4 years as we are part of the Peterborough diocese.

Oak class (Year R) will enjoy a workshop called 'Songs and Stories', exploring the cathedral for the first time and taking part in hands-on story session, discovering music used in worship and creating a 'make' to take back to school.

Ash class (Year 1 and 2) will explore the building using their senses, giving them an understanding of how Christians worship in the cathedral. They will also look at sculpting symbols in the cathedral before making a decorated clay tile to take back to school.

Elm class (Year 3 and 4) will be in a workshop called 'Searching for Saxons' which links to their new topic about the Saxons. They will focus on the Cathedral's Saxon past, its archaeology, writing and artwork, looking at some of the old artefacts.

Birch class (Year 5 and 6) will be looking at 'Tudors, Monks and Monarchs'. This will support their learning about the Tudors at the beginning of the year. They will visit the tomb of Katherine of Aragon and discover more about her life through role play and then look at Tudor Rebuses in the cathedral before making their own to take back to school.

We are looking forward to it!  
Happy New Year!

*Mr Smith, Headteacher*

# NEWBOTTLE PARISH COUNCIL (NOV 2023 UPDATE)

**Fly Tipping** — If residents are aware of any fly tipping, please report this to West Northamptonshire Council. They will collect the rubbish and also gather evidence, which will then help them prosecute the offenders.

**Myers Close Play Area** — Quotes will be obtained for new play equipment and surfacing in the play area.

**Playing Field & Pavilion** — The Parish Council supports the submission of a planning application for a new pavilion. This will now need to be agreed by the Trust who owns the playing field, before submission to the Local Planning Authority. The PFA is constantly in touch with Brackley Athletic FC to address parking issues on match days.

**Budget & Precept 2024/2025** — The budget for 2024/2025 has been approved and the precept will be increased by £2000 to £16,000. This increase will be used for the street lighting and play equipment projects.

**Community Bus Service** — A community bus service was being run from the village to Brackley, Northampton, Banbury and Towcester. For more information, please call 'Ability' on 01327 604123.

**Street Lighting Project** — A quote from Eon for the second phase of the project, which includes Myers Way and Myers Close is still awaited.

**Broken Street Lights** — If any street lights are not working, please contact the Clerk to the Parish Council with the lamp number/location and this information will be forwarded to Eon. Please bear in mind that the street lighting contract is between the Parish Council and Eon, so if residents contact Eon directly, they may not get a response

**Traffic Issues on Farthinghoe Road** — West Northants Council will not support 20mph speed restrictions in the village. However the Parish Council is able to erect advisory 20mph signs and will also change the VAS to flash 20mph instead of 30mph. The Parish Council does not have the funds to match-fund £25,000 for chicanes. WNC will be requested to progress double yellow lines on the corners of Myers Way and Farthinghoe Road to help address the parking issues and also erect a mirror opposite this junction to assist drivers pulling out of Myers Way.

**Grass Cutting** — Mick Dempsey has been awarded the grass cutting contract for 2024/2025.



**Community Speed Watch Scheme** — Newbottle Parish Council would like to start a Community Speed Watch Scheme in the village, but it will need support from volunteers in the community for it to be a success. If you are interested in assisting with the Scheme, please visit the Northants Police web site for more information: [www.northants.police.uk/CSW](http://www.northants.police.uk/CSW). Please email [newbottleparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:newbottleparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk) to register your interest.

Follow Newbottle Parish Council on Facebook or find us online at [www.newbottleparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.newbottleparishcouncil.co.uk)

**Parish Council Meetings at the Memorial Hall, 7.30pm: 17.01.24 & 18.03.24**  
Agendas and Minutes are available at [www.newbottleparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.newbottleparishcouncil.co.uk) or please contact the Clerk, Theresa Goss, on 01295 710965 during normal office hours.

**All are welcome to attend Parish Council meetings!**



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### **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 and check if your postcode is included in the scheme. [www.khh.org.uk/christmastree](http://www.khh.org.uk/christmastree)

### **How does your garden grow?**

A HUGE thank you to everyone who supported our Open Garden this year and for helping to raise nearly £6,000! We're already starting to think about our Open Gardens for next year... Could you help us grow our scheme and sign up to host your own event? Why not encourage your neighbours to take part in a whole village event? If you'd like to find out more, visit [www.khh.org.uk/gardens](http://www.khh.org.uk/gardens).

## Happy New Year!

I hope you had a very Merry Christmas.

The 'Carols in the Car Park' event on 10th December seems like quite a while ago now. It was lovely to see so many people there, and I am very grateful for the generous donations towards refreshments which raised over £72 for the local foodbank. The foodbank supports households in our villages, and if you would like to know more about it please contact me at the email address and 'phone number below.

For the Church the Christmas season extends into the New Year, and does not formally end until Candlemas on the 2nd February. This can seem rather odd when decorations, which have been up in the shops since November (or earlier), have long since been taken down. The reason for this extended celebration is that it demonstrates the crucial importance of the birth of Christ to the history of the world.

We sometimes hear an event being described as a turning point for humanity. Occasionally this is true, but sometimes an event that seems important is forgotten within a generation. This is not so with the birth of Jesus Christ. The movement that began with that event still attracts billions of followers around the world. The reason for this can be summarised by saying that without the birth of Christ there would have been no crucifixion and resurrection at Easter, and without the resurrection humanity would have no hope of eternal life. That life, the greatest gift of all, can be unlimited and infinite is the most remarkable and hopeful message that Christianity conveys. If you would like to know more do come to our services in church.

This year there will be many services and events to attend at the church. One to put in your diary now is our '**Springfest**', which will take place between **Saturday 16th and Sunday the 24th March**. This festival will include a varied music programme and other events, and will be a wonderful way to enjoy our beautiful Church in its picturesque setting during the early days of Spring. Do watch out for more information about this event in the Charlton Link, and online at our website and Facebook page.

Wishing you every blessing in 2024.

Father Matthew

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

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### FORTHCOMING SERVICES

EVERY SUNDAY IN CHURCH AT 9.30AM

WEDNESDAY 3RD JANUARY AT 9.30AM AND FORTNIGHTLY THEREAFTER  
AN INFORMAL SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION, AT 7 CARTWRIGHT ROAD,  
FOLLOWED BY REFRESHMENTS

WEDNESDAY 14TH FEBRUARY AT 9.30AM  
ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE MARKING THE BEGINNING OF LENT

***ALL ARE WELCOME***

**IN AN EMERGENCY, WHEN YOU CAN'T SPEAK, WE CAN.**

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It is estimated that 6 out of 10 people living with dementia will wander or walk with purpose at least once. Planning ahead is the key to saving lives. Searchers use the information provided by you when you join MedicAlert's Safe & Found Programme to assist their search efforts.

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**SCAN ME**

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**Tommy Dunne MBE - Living with dementia**

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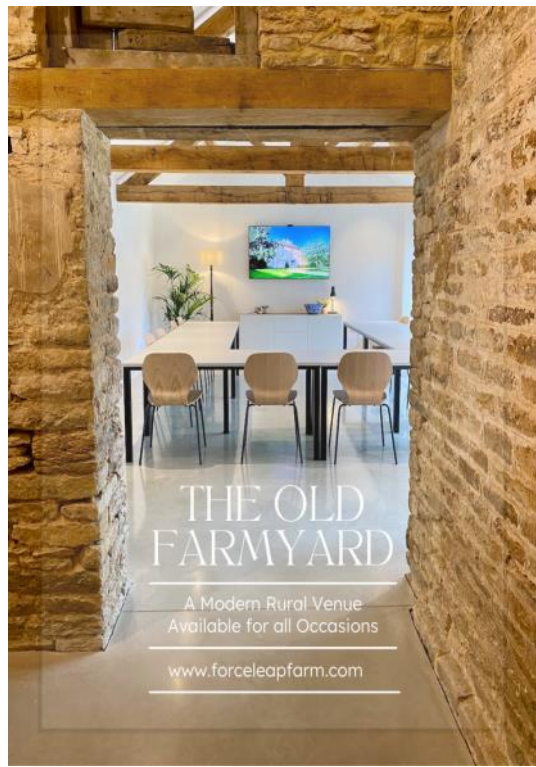
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