

# CHARLTON LINK

Village News for the People of Newbottle & Charlton

ISSUE 419 MARCH 2024

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and our advertisers

**COME AND JOIN US: March 16-24, 2024**

Enjoy nine days of wonderful music to celebrate the coming of spring at our lovely parish church — with local, national and international performers — and a fascinating talk on Newbottle's history.

## SPRINGFEST'24

AT ST JAMES'S CHURCH, NEWBOTTLE AND CHARLTON

**Saturday 16 March at 7.30pm**

Concert: Mark van de Wiel  
(principal clarinet of the  
Philharmonia Orchestra) with the  
Adderbury Ensemble — playing  
Mozart's clarinet quintet, Alissa Firsova's *Loss*  
and the Debussy string quartet. Tickets: £15.00



**Thursday 21 March at 7.30pm**

Concert: Northamptonshire's  
Sheppard Singers conducted by Peter  
Sheppard — from madrigals to  
modern. Tickets: £10.00



**Sunday 17 March at 2.30pm**

*'The Lost Village of Newbottle —  
plague, desertion or depopulation?'*  
Illustrated talk by landscape historian  
Deborah Hayter. Tickets: £5.00



**Saturday 23 March at 7.30pm**

Concert: Australian-born inter-  
national classical guitarist Craig  
Ogden — from Vivaldi & Bach to Villa-  
Lobos and Rodrigo. Tickets: £15.00



**Sunday 17 March at 4.00pm**

Songs of Praise — all welcome

**Tuesday 19 March at 6.00pm**

Concert: Stowe School String  
Ensemble playing Bach, Schubert  
and Walton. Tickets: £10.00



**Sunday 24 March at 9.30am**

Palm Sunday — family service with walk from  
Charlton Village Hall to the church — all welcome.

**MORE INFORMATION & TICKETS**

<https://www.springfest-newbottle.uk>

(Concert tickets can be bought at the  
door on the day subject to availability.)

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)



COME AND JOIN US FOR OUR

# Easter Community Tea

Come hear our children sing some lovely songs.

Tuesday 26th March 2024 | 2:30 PM

Newbottle and Charlton CEVA Primary School

Hot drinks and cake provided served by our Year 6s

RSVP to the office- Email-[bursar@newbottle.northants-ecl.gov.uk](mailto:bursar@newbottle.northants-ecl.gov.uk) or phone 01295 811480



## Hazel Haskin

We are sad to announce the death of Hazel Haskin on 31st January.

Hazel was a lifetime resident of Charlton, long time parish clerk and a fount of knowledge on the village and its history.

Following a private cremation, a service of thanksgiving will be held on Friday 22nd March at 1pm at St James's church, Newbottle, to which anyone from the village is welcome, followed by the interment in the cemetery.

A longer obituary will appear in a future issue of the Link.



## CHARLTON SUMMER FETE Saturday 13th JULY

Charlton's Fete is a wonderful example of a traditional garden fete. The comic dog show, delicious teas, tennis, egg-throwing and all the other games and stalls combine to make it a really enjoyable afternoon.

**BUT WE NEED HELPERS!** And new blood and new ideas! If you would like to help, even just a little, please contact Eleanor Bland or Deborah Hayter via the editor of the Link. And please come along to the Fete meeting on **Wednesday 24th April at 7.30pm** at The Cottage on Main Street.

## Village Hall update

Regular users of the village hall may have noticed the patches in the main hall where we recently made repairs to the floor. We're really pleased that we were able to get this attended to so quickly using funds from last year's pantomime. It is likely that the damage was caused by poor drainage of rainwater and while we've cleared the gutters, we now need to undertake a further investigation and possible works to ensure it doesn't keep happening.

From floors to ceilings - the flat roof over the toilets also needs replacing. We have some fantastic regular users of the hall and their fees cover our overheads but these larger works all need additional funds so please do support us so we're here for many years to come – we're a great space to hold a party or run a group – or grab your tickets to **The Band Back Together** (see page 6). All profits will go into hall funds.

On a positive note, our application to Valencia Communities Fund has reached the next stage and, if approved, will enable us to fit new windows and curtains at the hall which will help keep the heat in, making us more energy efficient.



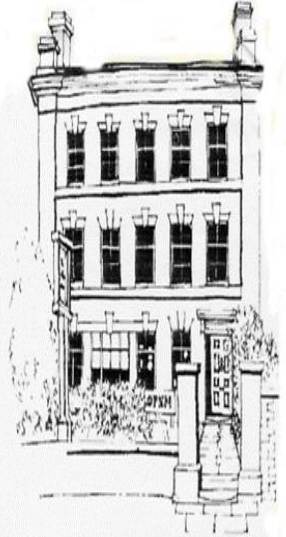
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**Easter Sunday, 31 March 2024**

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## Nature Notes

We did the Big Garden Bird Watch in the last weekend of January and we saw the following: 1 Robin, 2 Blackbirds, 2 Sparrows, 6 Jackdaws, 5 Blue Tits, 1 Wood pigeon, 4 Starlings, 1 Great Tit, 1 Magpie, 1 Nuthatch, 2 Collared Doves. We definitely have many more sparrows than 2, as they make a considerable racket in our beech hedges, and we often see far more starlings than 4. We haven't yet seen the national results for comparison. We have also been identifying birds using the wonderful Merlin app, run by Cornell University. Last week in our morning round of the garden with the dog, phone in hand, Merlin gave us Greenfinch, Blue Tit, Song Thrush, Robin, Great Tit, Chaffinch, and Woodpigeon. We haven't actually seen a thrush in the garden for a long time so we were really pleased to know that we had one (we have plenty of snails for a thrush to feed on – and we wish it would). We never see Greenfinches on the bird feeders these days: we used often to see them feeding, but apparently many greenfinches died from a disease spread through contamination of garden bird feeders. They must have learnt to leave them alone – and we should all take care to clean our feeders regularly and disinfect them.

The Merlin app also confirmed what we had suspected for some time: that there are skylarks in the fields either side of the church path. Or rather not in the fields but high up in the sky above the fields. You hear the sound but you are unlikely to be able to spot them unless you have extraordinarily good long sight. But it's lovely to hear them and know they are there.

There was a collection of earthworms on the surface of the soil and the path outside Newbottle church one Sunday morning: several worms were stretched out in an extraordinary way. We think they were ordinary earthworms but none of us had seen worms behaving quite like that. No explanation has so far come to light.

We have had a lot of weather recently: several storms one after the other, quite destructively in this garden, with trellis blown over and a tree down, and endless rain at the same time as ridiculously warm weather for February. The floods along the Cherwell valley have been as extensive as we have ever seen, and we have water standing at the bottom of our garden - some very soggy places. The water table must be very high so there is nowhere for the water to go, even in our very free-draining sandy soil.

The snowdrops have been magnificent this year and are just beginning to go over now – spring seems to be galloping onwards with the daffodils beginning to come out. Going into Oxford it's always obvious that everything there is at least a fortnight ahead of us: it is particularly obvious with the flowering trees (*Prunus pissardii* we think) along the Woodstock and Banbury Roads. They are planted in many of the front gardens along those roads – it must have been the fashionable tree to plant when those houses were being built. Oxford is not only south of us but also at a lower altitude which makes a real difference to the timing of the seasons. We have to hope that there won't be any really cold weather to come.

We met the concept of the 'shifting baseline syndrome' recently: a term used by ecologists to describe how as the years pass everyone gets used to our drastically impoverished wildlife. The few birds we see become the 'new norm', and most people no longer notice that they haven't heard a cuckoo in spring.

**Deborah and Paul Hayter**



From one of Britain's most celebrated writers comes a new play about growing up and rock 'n' roll – **The Band Back Together** by Barney Norris comes to Charlton Village Hall for one night only on **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April, at 7.30pm**, doors and bars open at 7pm.

The story follows Joe, Ross and Ellie. They used to be in a band, they were pretty good too, making waves in the pubs and clubs across the rugged patchwork of England's southwest. They even had a song on Radio 2. But that was all a decade ago and the songs, the stories, the secrets are long since buried. Until now.

Written and directed by award-winning dramatist and writer Barney Norris (*Visitors, Nightfall*) and produced by Farnham Maltings (*Mountain Music, Brilliance*) this new play features songs from the 90s and 00s played by a live band and is a great village get together.

The Band Back Together is suitable for everyone over the age of 14, tickets are £10 (plus booking fee) and available from [ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/charlton/charlton-memorial-hall](http://ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/charlton/charlton-memorial-hall)



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Last month it was wonderful to celebrate the beginning of Lent with our Ash Wednesday service, and to be joined by our school, who led our prayers and singing, and read the lessons during the service. I say 'celebrate' the beginning of Lent because, although Lent has a reputation for being rather austere, it is really a time of spiritual refreshment during which joy gradually builds until the great celebration of Easter.

You are warmly invited to join us on this joyful journey. I have set out the details of our services below. It would be wonderful to welcome you to some or all of them. In particular do make a note of our family services for Mothering Sunday (10th March) and Palm Sunday (24th March), as well as the opportunities to mark the most sacred days of the year during Holy Week.

All in all March will be a very busy month in the church as Springfest '24 is also fast approaching. This will be a varied and exciting programme of music and more between Saturday 16th and Sunday 24th March. Among the highlights will be a concert at 7.30pm on Saturday 23rd March by Craig Ogden, the internationally renowned classical guitarist. More information and tickets can be found at <https://www.springfest-newbottle.uk> As part of the festival we will hold a Songs of Praise service in church at 4pm on Sunday 17th March, and the choice of songs and hymns is yours! Do send me an email, or give me a call to make a suggestion. We will include as many as we can. My 'phone number and email address are printed below.

One further date for your diary is Sunday 14th April. At 10.30am on that date we will hold our AGM in church. At this meeting we elect our churchwardens and hear more about the life and work of the church over the past year.

I hope you have a joyful Lent and Easter. Do come along and enjoy the many and varied events taking place in your parish church.

With all good wishes,

Father Matthew

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

Facebook/St James's Church, Newbottle & Charlton

## **FORTHCOMING SERVICES**

EVERY SUNDAY AT 9.30AM (EXCEPT 17TH MARCH)

10th MARCH: 9.30AM MOTHERING SUNDAY FAMILY SERVICE

17TH MARCH: 4PM SONGS OF PRAISE

## **HOLY WEEK & EASTER**

**PALM SUNDAY** (24TH MARCH) 9.30AM

BEGINNING AT THE MEMORIAL HALL AND WALKING TO CHURCH

**MAUNDY THURSDAY** (28TH MARCH): 9.30AM HOLY COMMUNION

**GOOD FRIDAY** (29TH MARCH): 2PM SERVICE OF MEDITATION & REFLECTION

**EASTER DAY** (31ST MARCH): 9.30AM HOLY COMMUNION

WEDNESDAY 6TH AND 20TH MARCH AT 10.30AM

AN INFORMAL GATHERING FOR PRAYER, MEDITATION AND FELLOWSHIP

AT 5 GREEN LANE. FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL EILEEN ON 811654

WEDNESDAY 13TH MARCH AT 9.30AM

AN INFORMAL SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION, AT 7 CARTWRIGHT ROAD,  
FOLLOWED BY REFRESHMENTS

SUNDAY 14TH APRIL 10.30AM: AGM

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