

CHARLTON LINK

Village News for the People of Newbottle & Charlton

ISSUE 407 FEBRUARY 2023

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

Jack and The Beanstalk 15 – 18 February 2022

Tickets are selling fast! Some performances are sold out but there are still tickets available for Wednesday or Thursday evening, priced at £7 for adults and £5 for children.

Ticket sales are online this year so scan the QR code below to take you to the website. If you are unable to buy online, pop down and see us on Sunday 5th February from 10am to 4pm to buy your tickets with cash.

We are also collecting for our nightly raffle of gifts and goodies, all donations gratefully received. Drop these off to the hall anytime from Friday evening on the 11th – we are there all week.

The last Panto raised £2,851 for the Village Hall, it would be great to beat that total!



Read the Link in colour at www.charltonandnewbottle.com

Charlton Link Editor: *Julia Rands, juliarands@hotmail.com 01295 812446*

Nature Notes

Last month we forgot that the Big Garden Birdwatch would be coming up in January but you may get this in time to be reminded. It is taking place the last weekend in January, 27th – 29th, and everyone can take part, even if you don't have a garden. The playing field or the Village Hall playground will do, and every record helps the RSPB to understand how UK birds are doing. You are asked to record all the birds you see during one hour – the time to suit yourself – and then to send your results to the RSPB. This is the biggest citizen science project ever and every record is important. You can sign up via the RSPB website and get a free guide.

We have been seeing a pair of pied wagtails in the garden: these seem to have been absent for some time so it is lovely to see them again, pecking about under the bird feeders. We have also had the excitement of seeing flocks of starlings, looking like the beginnings of a starling murmuration. These gatherings are one of the really spectacular sights of winter wildlife in this country. In midwinter, starlings gather together as the light is going at the end of the afternoon, and in enormous numbers they swirl and swoop making extraordinary patterns against the sky, until at some signal (no-one has been able to work out what it is) they all rush earthwards together to roost for the night. The RSPB reserve on Otmoor is a good place to see this happening: they roost in the reedbeds there. Those we saw above our garden were only small groups and they appeared to be travelling from the south-west to the north-east, having a few practice swoops and turns on the way. It was the noise that alerted us first: they make a terrific racket as they go.

We have also been seeing flocks of fieldfares in the fields. These members of the thrush family are winter visitors, arriving from October and leaving to return to Iceland and Scandinavia for nesting and breeding from March. They feed on berries, worms and insects so field hedges with plenty of hawthorn and ivy berries are a good source for them. In really harsh winter conditions, when they have exhausted the food elsewhere, they may arrive in domestic gardens. So keep those feeders going – and left-over windfall apples and pears will be welcomed too. Fieldfares have blue grey hoods, grey brown backs, streaked breasts and a white rump, and they often flock with the slightly smaller redwings, which are small thrushes with brown backs, streaked breasts and patches of red under their wings.

Butterfly Conservation has alerted us to the fact that there are three moths that you might see out and about at this time of year. These are the Twenty-plume Moth, the Pale Brindled Beauty and the Winter Moth. None of these is very spectacular but two of these have very poetic names.

What to do with hibernating butterflies in the house? It is usually the Small Tortoiseshell and the Peacock that come in in late summer or early autumn when it is still warm outside and our houses seem to provide cool, sheltered, dry conditions. When we turn the heating up the butterfly thinks it is time to wake up and get going – but with cold conditions and no nectar outside this is generally fatal. We are advised to catch them, put them into something like a cardboard box, move them somewhere cool and when calmed down to re-house them in a porch, shed, garage or outhouse, just remembering that they must be able to escape outdoors when they need to in spring.

Deborah and Paul Hayter



Newbottle & Charlton School Update

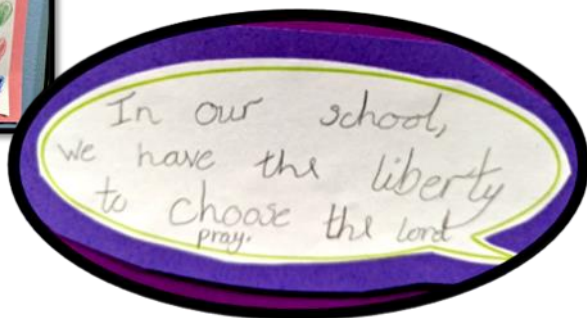
In January, the children went to St James' church in Newbottle twice; we had an epiphany service followed by a special prayer space day focussing on epiphany which the children enjoyed. Thank you to Father Matthew and the other volunteers who were so welcoming to the children during their visit.

We really value these sessions spending the morning in mixed age groups. The children get to know and support each other from Reception all the way up to Year 6. We have planned other sessions (which we call peer to peer) to look at different themes in these teams. The themes could be something as simple as playing games, sharing a story, learning a new skill or discussing a topic or question.

This term we are looking at our modern British Values and what they mean for us in school. We have looked at individual liberty as a concept and respect and tolerance. Below you will find some work they completed on these areas.

Mr Smith, Headteacher

| | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| T | reating everyone the same |
| O | pen the doors to everybody |
| L | et them all have a go |
| e | qual team! |
| r | espect people |
| a | llowing people to play games |
| n | ow stand up for human rights |
| C | ause that's how it's meant to be |
| e | veryone united like you and me |





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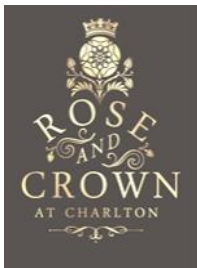
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Easter is a little earlier this year, and so Lent will soon begin. Shrove Tuesday is on the 21st February, and Ash Wednesday, the formal start of Lent, is on the 22nd. We will have an Ash Wednesday service in church at 9.30am on the 22nd. Do come along. All are welcome.

In some ways Lent has a bad reputation. It can be seen as rather dour and cheerless. We are encouraged to give something up, usually something we enjoy such as chocolate (a weakness of mine), or alcohol, or some other 'treat'. If we succeed, we may feel a sense of achievement, but our reward is often to make up for lost time with those luxuries we have missed, hence the popularity of chocolate Easter eggs!

This is all good fun, but it can obscure the real purpose and meaning of Lent. To return to those treats as our reward is a bit like going round in circles. In fact, Lent is about going forward, towards eternity. One way to look at Lent's sacrifices is to see the things we give up as belonging to this passing world. We don't belong to this passing world because we have been created to live in the presence of God for all eternity, that's the truth that Lent brings into sharp focus.

Similarly, the ash which we can choose to have marked on our foreheads at the Ash Wednesday service is a symbol of the transience of this life. As it is administered the priest may say "remember you are dust and to dust you shall return". However, it too points not to an end, but a beginning, a new life to come after death. Ash can contain micronutrients which aid the growth of plants, and similarly Lent, the season symbolised by the use of ash in church, can help us grow spiritually into the life that God offers us in eternity.

There is a lot to 'unpack' about the significance of Lent, and what it says about our final destiny, and we shall begin to explore these themes in our services during Lent. Everyone is welcome to come along. Without giving away too many 'spoilers' I can say that the answers are worth celebrating, with chocolate or otherwise!

With my best wishes,

Father Matthew

Tel. 811364, email: fathermatthew.r@icloud.com

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

EVERY SUNDAY IN CHURCH AT 9.30AM

WEDNESDAY 22nd FEBRUARY AT 9.30AM: ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

THURSDAY 9th FEBRUARY (AND FORTNIGHTLY THEREAFTER) AT 9.30AM:
AN INFORMAL SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION AT 7 CARTWRIGHT ROAD,
CHARLTON. FOLLOWED BY REFRESHMENTS

ALL ARE WELCOME

Notes of the Newbottle Parish Council Meeting

Monday 16 January 2023 at the Memorial Hall, Charlton

www.newbottleparishcouncil.co.uk

Present – Parish Councillors Michael Loggin (Chairman), Linda Baker and Wayne Rule and Theresa Goss (Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer).

Co-option – Matthew Walsh was co-opted onto the Parish Council.

Road Safety – Radd Seiger attended the meeting and provided an informative update on the road safety project which was being undertaken by the Department for Transport. This related to the number of accidents in the vicinity of RAF bases in the UK, recommending new safety measures to address the issue. The Clerk would be requesting a copy of the draft report. In addition, for security reasons, the airbase was seeking permission for a new entrance, however there was no mention in the application of the road safety issues surrounding the current entrance and the Parish Council would like this to be addressed by the Highways department.

Playing Field and Pavilion – Work had been completed on the new perimeter footpath and the Parish Council thanked all the volunteers who have been involved with the project at the playing field.

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

Flagpole – Investigations would continue into a flagpole for the village and it would be discussed further at the next meeting.

Street Lighting – Discussions were ongoing with Eon with regard to the roll out of the new street lights and due to a change of personnel at Eon, the project had been delayed. 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.

Fly Tipping – If residents are aware of any fly tipping, please report this to West Northamptonshire Council. <https://www.southnorthants.gov.uk/report> or call **0300 126 7000**. They will collect the rubbish and also gather evidence, which will then help them prosecute the offenders.

Parking Issues – The Parish Council kindly requests that drivers do not park their vehicles on the footpaths in the village. Parking on footpaths means that pedestrians and especially those with pushchairs or wheelchairs have to move into the road to get past the vehicle. This is clearly very dangerous and residents should not be putting other residents in this dangerous position, especially when everyone is so aware of the speeding issues through the village. **Please park considerately in the village.**

Dog Waste Bin – The dog waste bin on the Cemetery footpath would be replaced as it was starting to rust and rot away.

Grass Cutting – The grass cutting contract for 2023/2024 was awarded to Mick Dempsey.

Internal Auditor – Auditing Solutions Ltd were appointed as the Internal Auditor for 2023/2024.

Precept 2023/2024 – The precept for 2023/2024 was increased by £500, to £14,000.

Grants – The following grants were approved for 2023/2024: PCC for Cemetery maintenance £650.00 and £200 for The Link.

Planning – The Parish Council had no objections to the following application:

WNS/2022/2329/FUL

4 Cartwright Road Charlton

A rear extension to the dwelling and replacement of a flat roof at the rear with a pitched roof to match the original roof. Conversion and extension of the garage to create habitable accommodation, for use by family members and with short term holiday letting use.

The following planning applications had been determined by South Northamptonshire Council's Planning Committee/Planning Officers, since the last meeting of the Parish Council: None. Planning applications can be viewed on the South Northants Council web site.

<https://snc.planning-register.co.uk/planappsrch.aspx>

Meeting Dates - Future meetings, all starting at 7.30pm would be held at the Memorial Hall, Main Street, Charlton.

20 March 2023

17 July 2023

17 April 2023 (Annual Parish Meeting)

18 September 2023

15 May 2023

20 November 2023

All welcome to attend!

Agendas and Minutes 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

Playing Field News

Thank you to everyone who attended our open evening at the Village Hall, it was great to see some new faces and share with them our plans for 2023. We've now set up a 'Charlton Crew' WhatsApp group so that we can send out requests for help, if you'd like to be included please email charltonplayingfields@yahoo.com



'Quiz Night - The Rematch' was a great night, thanks to all that attended and to the Rose & Crown for

hosting. Our next village event is Family Bingo Night on Saturday 25th March at 5.30pm in the Village Hall, keep an eye out for our posters and on our 'Charlton Playing Field Project' Facebook

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