

# CHARLTON LINK

Village News for the People of Newbottle & Charlton

ISSUE 431 MARCH 2025

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## Quiz Night Returns!

The next Quiz Night is on **Monday 10 March** at the Rose & Crown. The pub opens at 7pm with the quiz starting at 7.30pm. We have space for just one more team (up to six people).

If you'd like to join us and take a shot at winning the grand prize - or much coveted wooden spoon - then send us an email [charltonplayingfields@yahoo.com](mailto:charltonplayingfields@yahoo.com)



We'll be holding our popular family Easter Bingo at the village hall on **Saturday 29 March at 5pm.**

Tickets are £5 per player for five books with additional books available to purchase on the door. We recommend that children over 7 have their own book.

Tickets now available to purchase from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/charltonplayingfields](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/charltonplayingfields) We know it'll be a cracking event with egg-cellent prizes!

**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)*

## Nature Notes

Hazel catkins have been flowering away for some weeks. Some hazel trees are very prolific and are covered in dangling yellow catkins – also known from their appearance as lambs' tails – and they can appear very early in the year. If you pick some to bring into the house you realize their purpose as they shed copious amounts of pollen all over the furniture. Hazels are monoecious, which means they have male and female flowers on the same plant, but they can't self-fertilize. The pollen from the catkins, the male flowers, is spread by the wind which is why they have to produce such a lot of it so that some might land on the female flowers, tiny vase-shaped buds with red filaments sticking out growing along the twigs and branches. You have to look really closely to see these flowers. If they are pollinated these become the hazelnuts of autumn.

Squirrels are unfortunately very fond of hazelnuts. We have never managed to collect any nuts from any of our hazels though we like them too: the squirrels always seem to take them before they are even ripe, and all we find is a lot of empty hazelnut shells with holes in them. But before the advent of grey squirrels hazelnuts in the countryside were a useful form of food for free: evidence from archaeology shows that from prehistoric times hazelnuts were being collected and eaten. They were a good source of protein during the winters.

Red squirrels (extinct locally for a long time) would also take some hazelnuts, but their preferred food is pine seeds, and the seeds of larch and spruce. They also eat fruit, tree shoots, bark, lichen and fungi so where they were present they do not seem to have so completely demolished the hazelnut crop.

We did the Big Garden Bird Watch in the last weekend of January and hope that lots of you did the same. Our results were as follows: 5 pigeons, 5 jackdaws, 10 starlings, 3 black-birds, 5 sparrows, 1 robin, 1 dunnock, 3 bluetits and 2 great tits. Having recorded this in the morning, we then tried the Merlin birdsong app later in the day further down the garden and got quite different results: Merlin gave us goldfinch, greenfinch, a crow, and a redwing. This last was interesting as we don't think we have ever actually seen a redwing in the garden. This is the UK's smallest thrush, which has a creamy-white chest covered in dark brown streaks, a distinctive red-orange underwing and a creamy-white stripe above its eye. It is a winter visitor, with just a few pairs remaining all year round in the north of Scotland. Redwings come here from Iceland, the Faroes and Scandinavia, often travelling by night and spend from October to April here.

Redwings feed on worms and berries, particularly hawthorn and rowan. They spend most time in open country, fields and hedgerows, but when the weather is harsh and food is scarce they will venture into gardens and orchards in search of food such as berries and windfall apples. Redwings are known as something of a nomad in the bird world rarely returning to the same place to spend the winter.

We are looking forward to the end of the beastly east wind but despite the current cold we are enjoying snowdrops, yellow aconites and the first of the early crocuses. There are lots of buds but only when the sun shines do the crocuses open out to their full glory.

**Deborah and Paul Hayter**



# Newbottle & Charlton CEVA Primary School

*'Let all that do be done in Love'*

1 Corinthians 16:14

**Every person matters; Every moment counts**

Last month was a busy one with lots of visitors and trips going on. We had paramedics, dentists, police officers and firefighters visit Oak class (Year R) as part of their 'People who help us' topic. It was lovely to see the children's curiosity with the different visitors. Birch class (Year 5 & 6) had a fantastic trip to Bletchley Park to learn all about ciphers and codes as part of their World War 2 topic and Ash class (Year 1 & 2) went to the Black Country Living Museum to learn about homes and schools in the past. I joined them on this trip and it was one of my favourites; it was great to see the children enjoying themselves learning about life in the past. Elm class have a trip booked next half term linked to their topic about rivers.



Last month was Safer Internet Day and as a school we always do something to raise awareness on different subjects linked to the internet. This year's theme was: Online Scams. We looked at the definition of a scam - where someone tries to trick somebody else to get something from them, like money, items in a game, or personal information. Recent data has shown that 79% of young people come across online scams at least monthly, with 20%, including children as young as 8, seeing scams online every day. We know that many people accidentally fall victim to scams no matter what their age.

One of our pupil committees led a special assembly on this theme and discussed what to do, including:

- Look for signs that something might be a scam. Does it seem too good to be true?
- Keep your personal information, like your name, school, email, phone or bank details safe and private.
- Don't click on links, pop-ups or messages if you don't know who they're from or what they are for.
- For children, ensure they talk to a trusted adult, especially if you are worried, upset or unsure. (inc. parents, grandparents, other relatives, staff at school) but if adults are affected, don't keep it to yourself and seek help, it isn't your fault.
- Ask someone to show you where the block and report buttons are and for help using them.

A reminder that our next **Community Tea is Wednesday 23<sup>th</sup> April at 2:30pm.**

MR PITTS-SMITH,  
HEADTEACHER

## Playing Field Pop-up Café

We ran another successful pop-up cafe for Brackley Athletic Football Club on a cold February morning, raising over £100 towards the project total.

These pop-ups are great ways to raise awareness of what we want to do at the Playing Fields as well as making money - but they do need supporters.

If you're able to lend your time or bake a cake for us to sell or even just pop over and buy a bacon roll we'd be very grateful.



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The snowdrops have created a beautiful white carpet in the churchyard, and are a wonderful reminder that Spring is coming. They are an early sign of the new life that will soon be visible in fields and gardens.

In church we are soon to enter into the season of Lent. This time can be mistakenly characterised as a period of austerity, when we give up a luxury or treat. However, this only tells half the story. The discipline of giving something up is not an end in itself, but rather the creating of space for something new to take its place. For Christians, this space is intended for God to work within us, the 'still small voice' often described in religious poetry and music, gently guiding and changing us into the people we were created to be.

This is the essence of Lent, a season of new life and growth, and so it is fitting that in the northern hemisphere it falls on the cusp of Spring, as we see the natural world coming alive again after the long winter months.

We will be exploring these themes in our services during Lent, and you will be most welcome at any of them. We begin the season at 9.30am on Ash Wednesday, the 5th March, when our school will lead our worship. Everyone is welcome.

Looking further ahead, do put our Holy Week and Easter services in your diary. On Palm Sunday, the 13th April, we will begin our service at the Memorial Hall at 9.30am and walk to church via the field path. We shall celebrate Maundy Thursday at 9.30am on 17th April, Good Friday at 2pm on 18th April and our Easter Sunday service on 20th April will be at the usual time of 9.30am.

Lent and Easter are the seasons of new beginnings and new life. Do come and find out more, and join the Easter celebrations.

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 IN CHURCH AT 9.30AM  
(SUNDAY 30TH MARCH IS MOTHERING SUNDAY)

WEDNESDAY 5TH MARCH AT 9.30AM  
ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

WEDNESDAY 19th MARCH AT 9.30AM

AN INFORMAL SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION, AT 7 CARTWRIGHT ROAD,  
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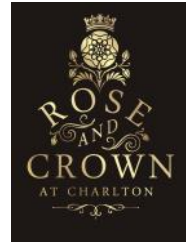
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## Mother's Day

Come and join us to spoil those  
special Mothers

Sunday 30 March 2025

Booking essential phone 01295 811317



## CHARLTON 2025 CALENDAR (more to follow)

<p><b>January</b></p> <p>20<sup>th</sup> Parish Council Meeting</p>	<p><b>February</b></p> <p>19<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> Panto, Cinderella at the Village Hall</p>	<p><b>March</b></p> <p>10<sup>th</sup> Quiz Night in aid of the playing field</p> <p>17<sup>th</sup> Parish Council Meeting</p> <p>29<sup>th</sup> Easter Bingo, Village Hall in aid of the playing field</p>
<p><b>April</b></p> <p>13<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday</p> <p>Community Tea, Newbottle &amp; Charlton School</p> <p>14<sup>th</sup> Parish Council Annual Village Meeting</p> <p>Charity Car Wash in aid of the</p>	<p><b>May</b></p> <p>19<sup>th</sup> Parish Council Meeting</p> <p>Della Defies Gravity in aid of the playing field</p>	<p><b>June</b></p> <p>Village Cricket</p>
<p><b>July</b></p> <p>Village Cricket</p> <p>21<sup>st</sup> Parish Council Meeting</p> <p>19<sup>th</sup> Charlton Fete &amp; Tennis Tournament in aid of St James' Church</p> <p>Community Tea, Newbottle &amp;</p>	<p><b>August</b></p>	<p><b>September</b></p> <p>15<sup>th</sup> Parish Council Meeting</p> <p>Harvest Festival, St James' Church</p>
<p><b>October</b></p> <p>5<sup>th</sup> Apple Pressing at the Village Hall</p> <p>31<sup>st</sup> Halloween Activities in aid of the playing field</p>	<p><b>November</b></p> <p>11<sup>th</sup> Act of Remembrance, Charlton War Memorial</p> <p>17<sup>th</sup> Parish Council Meeting</p> <p>Quiz Night in aid of the playing field</p>	<p><b>December</b></p> <p>Charlton Living Advent Calendar</p> <p>Carols in the Car Park</p> <p>Carol Service, St James' Church</p> <p>Community Tea, Newbottle &amp; Charlton School</p> <p>24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve; First Communion of Christmas, St James' Church</p> <p>25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day; Holy Communion, St James'</p>

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