

CHARLTON LINK

Village News for the People of Newbottle & Charlton

ISSUE 418 FEBRUARY 2024

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ON MONDAY 26TH FEBRUARY

**IT'S BACK...QUIZ NIGHT
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Charlton Link Editor: Julia Rands, juliarands@hotmail.com 01295 812446

NEWBOTTLE PARISH COUNCIL JANUARY 2024 UPDATE

Myers Close Play Area — Quotes and discussions with potential contractors, as well as grant funding, are all being progressed for new play equipment and surfacing in the play area.

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

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.

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.

Traffic Issues on Farthinghoe Road — West Northants Council will be contacted again regarding a potential parking area on Farthinghoe Road to help alleviate the parking issues at the junction with Myers Way. '20 is Plenty' stickers will also be distributed around the village.

Grass Cutting — The village will be taking part in 'No Mow May' so no verges will be cut during this month. The only exceptions are the Myers Close play area and the Memorial Hall play area.

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. Please email newbottleparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk to register your interest.

Annual Parish Meeting — Newbottle and Charlton Annual Parish Meeting is being held on Monday 15 April 2024 at 7.30pm at the Memorial Hall, Charlton. All residents are invited along to hear about the work of the Parish Council and other village organisations, over the last 12 months.

Highway Issues — Any issues with the roads and footpaths in the village should be reported to West Northants Council. www.westnorthants.gov.uk

Playing Field and Pavilion — There are a number of fundraising events being planned for 2024, so please keep an eye out for adverts around the village and on social media. The Parish Council thanks the PFA members for all their work at the site and for continuing to raise money for a new facility.

Parish Council Meetings at the Memorial Hall, 7.30pm: 18.03.24 & 20.05.24
Agendas and Minutes are available at www.newbottleparishcouncil.co.uk or please contact the Clerk, Theresa Goss, on 01295 710965 during normal office hours

All welcome to attend the Parish Council meetings!



Newbottle & Charlton School Update

We had such a good day at Peterborough Cathedral for our whole school trip. Here's a selection of our photos from the day.



Mr Smith, Headteacher



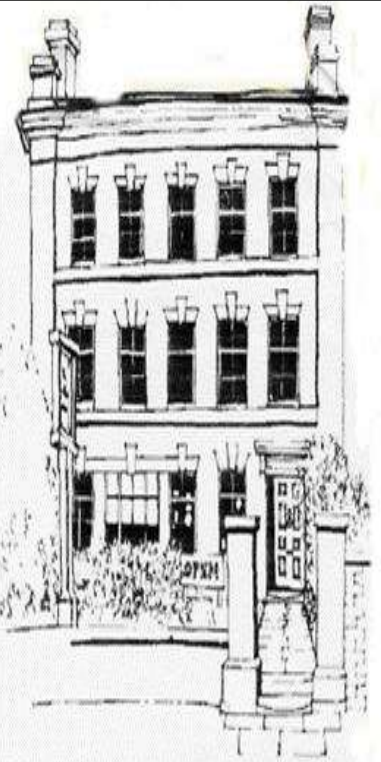
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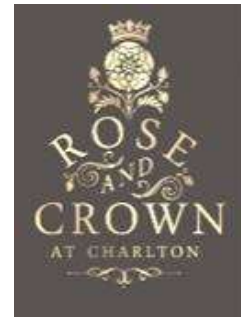
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Valentines Dinner 14 February

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The days are starting to lengthen and the snowdrops are beginning to appear, reminders that Spring is approaching. In church Lent is a similarly hopeful sign of the changing season. This year Lent and Easter are early. Ash Wednesday marks the start of Lent, and this year it falls on 14th February.

The tradition of giving our homes a spring clean is mirrored in the church traditions of Lent. During this season we take stock of our life, especially our inner or spiritual life, and consider how it might be refreshed. This is why we give something up for Lent. It trains us to exercise self-discipline, but also takes away distractions to enable us to focus on what really matters to us.

There will be lots of ways to explore these themes in our various services. Do come along. I have set out the various options below. This month we are beginning a new fortnightly informal meditation, prayer and fellowship group at 5 Green Lane. This will take place at 10.30am on Wednesday 7th and 21st February, and will be an excellent opportunity to enter into the 'spring clean' of Lent. If you would like to know more do give Eileen a call on 01295 811654. All are welcome.

In March we will be holding another festival in church. There will be a varied programme of music and more between Saturday 16th and Sunday 24th March. At 4pm on Sunday 17th we will hold a Songs of Praise service in church, 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.

With all good wishes,

Father Matthew

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

Facebook/St James's Church, Newbottle & Charlton

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

EVERY SUNDAY IN CHURCH AT 9.30AM

WEDNESDAY 7TH AND 21ST FEBRUARY AT 10.30AM

AN INFORMAL GATHERING FOR PRAYER, MEDITATION AND FELLOWSHIP
AT 5 GREEN LANE. FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL EILEEN ON 811654

WEDNESDAY 28TH FEBRUARY 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

For one night only, visiting Charlton Village Hall...

'The Band Back Together' - a new play from celebrated author and dramatist Barney Norris.

Coming to Charlton on Saturday 6th April.

Save the date in your diary for a night of live music, first class story-telling and a great village get together.

More details to follow in next month's Link.



Crossword winners!

Congratulations to Derrick Jephcott who won a £50 Rose & Crown voucher by completing the Christmas Crossword in the December Link. Paul Hayter takes the runner up prize of £25 Rose & Crown voucher. Thanks to everyone that entered and the Grandages for setting the crossword and the generous prizes!

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Nature Notes - answers to last month's quiz

1. It's a murmuration of starlings;
2. Brimstone butterfly caterpillars feed on buckthorn;
3. Elm tree leaves are asymmetrical where they meet the stalk;
4. We see white and purple violets in Charlton;
5. Our only native maple is the field maple;
6. *Gernaium maderense* is not native;
7. We see red kites and buzzards above Charlton;
8. Green woodpeckers in the garden are after ants' nests;
9. Meadow saxifrage is the rare plant in the cemetery;
10. Lady's bedstraw is the sprawling yellow plant in the Stonepits;
11. We sometimes see hummingbird hawk-moths in the garden;
12. The Big Garden Bird Watch takes place in the last weekend of January;
13. Willow tits are unlikely here;
14. Locally we see muntjac and roe deer;
16. Jack-goes-to-bed-at-noon along the church path, tallish, a bit like a dandelion;
17. Swifts are always airborne;
18. Badgers dig up the lawn to get at cockchafer grubs and leatherjackets;
19. Painted ladies, red admirals, clouded yellows migrate;
20. Swallows go to South Africa in the winter;
21. A hawker is a dragonfly;
22. Sloes are the fruit of blackthorn (*prunus spinosa*);
23. Ragwort is the host of the cinnabar moth;
24. We have seen pyramidal and common spotted orchids in the Stonepits;
25. Baby moles leave the nest and travel above ground in April and May.

We wonder whether anyone else has been suffering from infestations of fruit flies? We have had far more than ever before – in the fruit bowl, in the compost, all over the kitchen, and lasting right up until Christmas. We are hoping that the current cold weather will put a stop to them, but meanwhile, a friend taught us how to trap them. A small amount of apple cider vinegar in a small glass with a drop or two of washing up liquid; then cover the top with cling film and pierce it a couple of times with a fork. They can't resist and within half an hour it was full of them.

Our Christmas reading included a book about the Lost Rainforests of Britain: this contained a very surprising revelation (to us, at least) – that there were such things as temperate rainforests, as well as tropical ones. All along the western parts of Britain, where the climate is wetter, there were temperate rainforests, and there still are patches of it here and there surviving, though an enormous amount has been destroyed over the centuries for agricultural purposes. Rainforests look different to the ordinary woodlands that we are used to, because the high level of moisture enables epiphytic plants to grow on the trees, absorbing nutrients from the atmosphere through precipitation. This means that all the trees are covered in mosses, liverworts, lichens and fungi in huge variety. We shall have to go westwards to do some exploring.

Deborah and Paul Hayter

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