

# CHARLTON LINK

Village News for the People of Newbottle & Charlton

ISSUE 383 FEBRUARY 2021

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

## Charlton Store and Post Office

We are very excited about our new venture to take over Charlton Store and Post Office. Having been involved in Charlton village life for the last five years, we hope we will fulfil your needs and offer a great service to you all.



Brian Middleton will be in the shop on a daily basis, assisted by one of the family at certain times. The opening hours will remain the same.

We hope to bring some new ideas to you all - a small gift selection, fresh meats, fresh vegetables and cheese, in addition to the current offerings.

We will offer a delivery service to Charlton residents. Orders placed by Wednesday 12 noon will be delivered on Friday mornings.

A heartfelt thank you to Keith and Stephanie for their patience and assistance to get us up and running. We wish them everything of the best for the future.

We look forward to seeing you all in the shop.

**Rhona, Alvin, Brian, Emma and Struan** (pictured above, left to right)

[www.charltonandnewbottle.com](http://www.charltonandnewbottle.com)

*Charlton Link Editor: Julia Rands, [juliarands@hotmail.com](mailto:juliarands@hotmail.com) 01295 812446*



## Nature Notes

We were surprised on January 4<sup>th</sup>, when it was quite cold, to hear the unmistakable hum of a bumble bee in the garden. It was addressing itself to the flowers of a winter flowering clematis, which always delights us by its willingness to flower away when so little else is out. This caused us to look up the bumblebee life cycle: apparently it is not uncommon to see large bumblebees out foraging in the depths of winter. These are the new queens – in most varieties the only ones that overwinter. Generally all the old queens, the workers and the males die in the autumn as the weather gets colder, leaving only the newly mated queens raised at the end of the summer. These find a dry hole in the soil from where they emerge in the spring, but they are not truly hibernating, and venture out on warm sunny days in search of pollen or nectar.

In spring the queen finds a new site and lays in stores of nectar and pollen for herself, before laying eggs which develop into the worker bees of the colony. These then collect nectar and pollen to feed the growing brood of young bees as they hatch out.

Sometimes whole colonies of buff-tailed bumblebees (*Bombus terrestris*) are active in the winter; they nest in the ground and they may produce a second- generation colony in autumn, especially in southern Britain. It may be that the warmer winters we are having as a result of climate change enable this species to overwinter, along with garden bumblebees (*Bombus hortorum*).

We have also had to deal with several queen wasps inside the house quite obviously looking for a cosy place to start a nest. We can do without that sort of wildlife.

We have been reading one of our Christmas books: *Emperors, Admirals and Chimney Sweepers – the weird and wonderful names of butterflies and moths*. This has provided a lot of entertainment. We're quite good at butterflies but not so good at moths, of which there are hundreds. Many of them were being collected and named for the first time during the eighteenth century, which explains why so many of them have such antique-sounding names. Every well-off Georgian household had its footmen, and a whole sub-family of moths share that name, including the Hoary Footman, the Rosy Footman, the Buff Footman, the Dingy Footman, the Large Footman as well as the Pigmy Footman, the Feathered Footman and the Crimson-Speckled Footman. In many grand houses, and even not so grand houses, the best rooms were panelled in wood, or 'wainscoting'. The pale wings of the Wainscot Moths recall the colour and grain of pine, and there are about forty species of Wainscot moths, all sharing the same washed-out colour. We like 'the Old Lady' named for the dark patterning of its wings, like the black lace worn by widows; and there are several moths named for fabrics: there are Brocade moths, Satins, Silks, Muslins and Lace. These Silk moths are not the true silk moths from whose cocoons silk is made, but moths named in this country for the silky quality of their wings.

We were pleased to see a Pied Wagtail in the garden recently – it is some time since we have seen these in the garden, and we spied another little white egret by the stream below our garden. This is a suitable lead to a reminder that the RSPB's Big Garden Bird Watch is taking place from January 29<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> so please get out there and join in. All the information is on the RSPB website.

**Deborah and Paul Hayter**



## Newbottle & Charlton School Update

What a start to the year! Teachers were prepared for the opening of school on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January for all pupils after meeting for a training day on Monday. After the announcement of the closing of school to most of our children that night, plans had to be quickly changed to remote (home) learning for the majority of children. I have been so impressed by how quickly our school community responded to get things in place to continue. We are using a platform for remote (home) learning called Seesaw. This allows teachers to add videos and recordings to the activities they have set each day and children can respond to the tasks by taking photos of what they have produced or record videos/audio messages of their thoughts. They can also type up their notes and draw pictures.

At present we are open for 30+ key worker and vulnerable children each week. Staff are working in school teaching to those children while also planning activities, recording input to lessons, teaching live and giving virtual feedback to those learning at home. We decided to continue our whole school topic of 'Emotions' for the first three weeks of term. Children have been learning all about different emotions through stories and discussions.

The younger children in Ash and Oak have been reading and discussing a story called the 'Colour Monster' by Anna Llenas, about a monster who wakes up feeling very confused because his emotions are all over the place. The older children in Elm and Birch have been learning about regulating emotions. They are learning that we all experience lots of different emotions at different times, which is perfectly normal but we need to regulate them (control them and not let them take over) so that we can still think clearly and act appropriately for different situations.

Here are some Emotion wheels created by Elm class looking at how they could portray different emotions through art.



Hope everyone is keeping safe and well.

*Mr Smith, Interim Headteacher*

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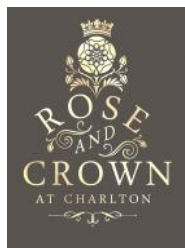
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We hope it will not be too long until we are able to open our doors and see you all in the pub again

We continue to serve takeaways on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings from 5.00pm – 8.30pm

We will also be offering Sunday Roast Lunches on 14 February 2021 and 28 February 2021

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## **Merry Christmas Charlton!**

Our very first Outdoor Carols, held on 22 December in the upper car park of the Memorial Hall, were very well attended with social distancing maintained. It was lovely in the current environment to be able to do something Christmassy, thanks to Deborah Hayter who came up with idea and David and Diane Morgan who curated the carols and the words between. Everyone enjoyed a mug of mulled wine or hot chocolate afterwards and £200 was collected for Katharine House Hospice and The Children's Society.

The Christmas tree was taken down but the foundations and fixings remain for this year. With thanks to all the villagers and the Parish Council who contributed to the lights and delivery of the tree. We have £60 left in the fund which will be used to buy a 12ft tree if we aren't fortunate enough to be gifted one again.



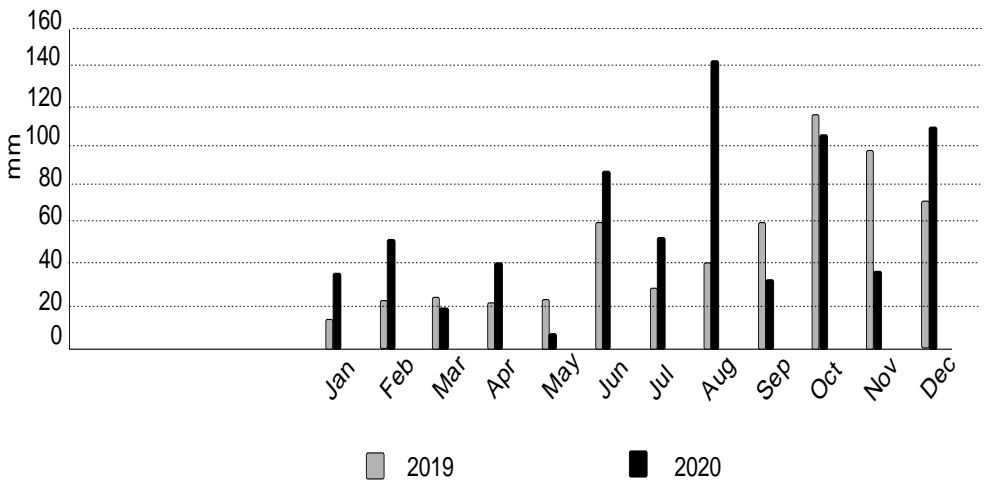
## Was August really that wet?

On my birthday in August 2018, my son gave me a small, decorative rain gauge. I set it in a position to gather rain while being shaded from the worst of the sun's glare.

Over the two and bit years since then I have gathered data daily and now have two full years to review. It may be that villagers might also enjoy reflecting on the graph below and ask the question, "Was August really that wet?"

If you think that 2020 was a wetter year, then you are right. It has been one of the three warmest years since records began, according to the Met Office and you may remember the heat of July and early August. Therein lies our problem; an island on the edge of a large ocean.

### Charlton Rainfall



Climatologists will tell you that more heat for us means more rain. Thus, the first two weeks were wonderfully dry and hot. The jet stream increased in strength and brought storms Ellen and Francis between 19<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> making August 2020 the fifth wettest on record and all in one week. Was August really that wet? Well, yes if you look at the statistics!

**Trevor Wadham, Charlton Resident**

The days are still quite short and dark, the weather has been quite cold lately, and so Easter might still seem a long way off. However, it is a little earlier this year, and so we will soon begin the season of Lent. Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, falls on the 17th February.

What do you associate with Lent? Perhaps it's the discipline of giving something up, usually something we like, such as cakes, chocolate or another 'treat'. If so, then perhaps, like me, you feel like shrugging and asking why you should give up anything else when we have been forced to give up so much that we love over the last 12 months.

Maybe, in the midst of the pandemic, we should think again about how we view Lent. Instead of giving something up, lets see it as the chance to gain something. If we do then we will see the real purpose behind Lent.

The point being that we are all 'works in progress', changing and progressing as we go through life. For Christians the aim of that progress is to become more Christ-like, that is to say our better selves. Each time we choose to give up the opportunity to utter a hurtful word, for example, we gain something, we gain a little more of our true, better, selves.

This Lent can be a time when we receive something of real value, rather than give something up. The technical name for that thing is 'grace', you might think of it as a helping hand from God, or, more topically, as a vaccine against the thoughts, words and actions which can hurt us or others.

We'll be considering these themes during our services in church during Lent. They take place every Sunday at 9.30am, and everyone is welcome. In accordance with the latest Government guidelines we are 'Covid-Secure', so do come along.

With my prayers and best wishes,

**Father Matthew**

# Charlton Installation Services



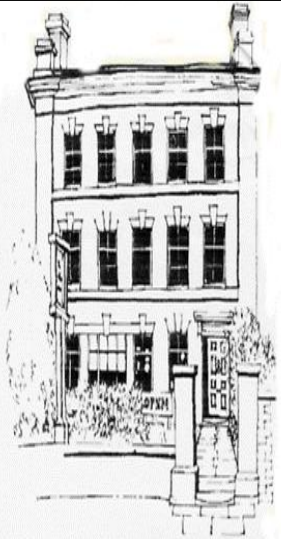
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