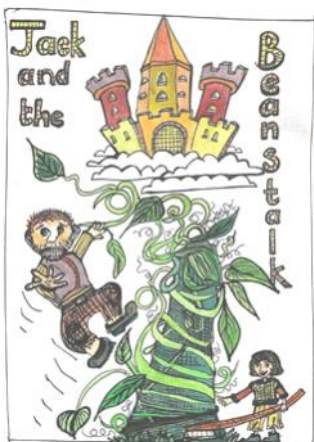


# CHARLTON LINK

Village News for the People of Newbottle & Charlton

ISSUE 395 FEBRUARY 2022

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



## Jack and the Beanstalk postponed

Due to the current and ongoing situation with Covid-19, the Charlton 2022 production of Jack and the Beanstalk has been postponed until October 2022 (26th-29th). Rehearsals will resume for the current cast and any children who would like to remain involved on August 31st.

Thank you to all who have given their time and effort so far. If you have any queries please email Kate McKellar at [k.e.mckellar@gmail.com](mailto:k.e.mckellar@gmail.com)

It is the **Queen's Platinum Jubilee** this year, where she will celebrate 70 years as our Queen.

The late May Bank Holiday has been moved and an additional one added in. There are a number commemorative events planned and the dates are Thursday 2 – Sunday 5 June 2022.

We would like to host a street party in Charlton on Sunday 5 June, and also look at other opportunities to celebrate over this weekend.

There will be an initial **meeting at the Memorial Hall at 7.30 on Wednesday 16 February**, everyone welcome.



[www.charltonandnewbottle.com](http://www.charltonandnewbottle.com)  
Charlton Link Editor: Julia Rands, [juliarands@hotmail.com](mailto:juliarands@hotmail.com) 01295 812446



# VILLAGE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

If you have an event coming up, let us know so that we can publicise it.

Dates for your diary so far for 2022:

Queens Jubilee Street Party – Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June

Charlton Fete – Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> July

Jack and the Beanstalk Panto – 26<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> October

Carols in the Car Park – Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December



Get in touch with your event, in plenty of time, by using the email on the front page of Charlton Link.

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## Nature Notes

We've been told that someone had seen a young dead otter on the road between the village and Charlton House Farm. It had presumably been run over. That is sad, but on the other hand, it is good news to know that there is a viable otter population in the neighbourhood, presumably spreading out from the River Cherwell up nearby streams. Each otter needs quite a big territory and we know that there are otters in the Cherwell.

By the time that you read this we hope that you will have done the Big Garden Bird Watch as we will have done (an hour during the weekend of the 29 & 30 January - see the RSPB website). If you have interesting sightings to report, or major changes in what you see in the garden, do let us know. We have been seeing pied wagtails in the garden, and today there were four blackbirds all on the top lawn. We always enjoy the nosy robins and their investigations into whatever we are doing in the garden. Of course they are just after the opportunities for gleaning the bugs or worms that we turn up, but it does seem as if they are inquisitive about our activities.

At the time of writing we are in a bit of a cold spell with frosts and fog, but it has generally been absurdly mild and wet so far this winter – and so grey all of December. One of the effects is to cause the grass to keep on growing. We are old enough to remember how in our childhoods our fathers put away their lawnmowers sometime in October and didn't get them out again until Easter. In 2021 we didn't mow in January but the lawnmower was in use every month of the year otherwise – including December. It was difficult to find a time when the machinery could be spared to be serviced. Apparently grass keeps growing whenever the temperature is 7' or above (45' F). No wonder it is so long at the moment.

We get reports from the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust as one of us does wildlife surveys for them. A nightingale was heard singing for several weeks at Warburg, near Henley, in the south of Oxfordshire. This is a very rare bird now in the county and it is not known whether it found a mate and bred. Nightingales actually sing at all times of the day and night: their song is remarkably varied and beautiful, but is chiefly remarkable for the fact that they sing at a time when most other birds are silent. They are summer visitors and breed south of the Severn-Wash line so we could just be within their likely range, but they like impenetrable thickets best and the countryside around here doesn't have many of those. Nightingales are getting rarer in this country but are still very common in southern Europe. Other summer visitors we are unlikely to hear these days are cuckoos and turtle doves. Apparently the purring or churring of turtle doves used to be one of the really common background sound-tracks of the English summer but we have to admit that we have never heard it and wouldn't recognize it.

We've written before about phenology: the recording of observations of events in the natural world, from spring's first ladybird to the autumn's last leaf. Researchers at Cambridge University are analysing nearly 3 million entries in Nature's Calendar, a vast database collating the records of thousands of amateur nature-watchers all over the UK. This information will indicate how much our flora and fauna is being affected by climate change. A smaller study of 406 plants showed that first flowering times have advanced nearly a month compared to historical data, but not so much is known about the mammals, birds and insects that rely on them. You could help the cause by becoming a recorder at [naturescalendar.woodlandtrust.org.uk](http://naturescalendar.woodlandtrust.org.uk)

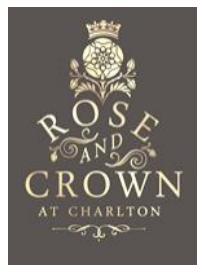
**Deborah and Paul Hayter**

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## Dates for your Diaries

Valentines Dinner 12 February 2022  
Valentines Lunch 13 February 2022



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Now that we have passed the shortest day of the year the days are starting to get a little longer, but the natural world still seems to be asleep. I've spotted a few snowdrops, but spring still feels some way off. We know it will arrive, but we are forced to wait for it.

In some ways the seasons become blurred by modern life. A small example of this is the way that fruit is generally available all year round in the supermarket, whether or not it is in season. However, we can't really escape the seasons of life.

The rhythms of the natural world are a helpful way to begin to understand the seasons of life, and the work of God in the world and in our lives. Sometimes we may feel the nearness of God, just as we will sense the closeness of spring in April. There will also be times when God feels distant, just as spring and summer do now. Of course that doesn't mean that He is absent. The potential for new life in the fields and gardens around us is hidden at present, but it is there, buried out of sight.

Similarly, however distant God seems, the full potential of Christian life is always present. These fallow times may themselves be gifts from God. Sometimes we need a change of perspective, or to slow down and take stock. These personal 'winters' can do that for us, giving us a new insight into our lives, the world around us, and ultimately of God.

In church we will soon enter the season of Lent, which can feel a little like a spiritual winter. However it is full of the promise of new life at Easter. Do come and join us, and find out more about the way God works within the seasons of our lives.

Wishing you every blessing,

Father Matthew

Email: [fathermatthew.r@icloud.com](mailto:fathermatthew.r@icloud.com)

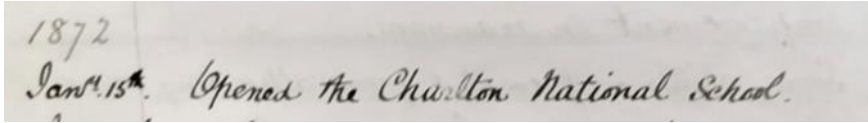
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**COME AND JOIN US FOR OUR WEEKLY SERVICE, EVERY SUNDAY IN CHURCH AT 9.30AM & OUR ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE: 9.30AM ON WEDNESDAY 2nd MARCH. EVERYONE IS WELCOME**

**Would you like to join a friendly choir and sing for fun?**

Fabula Community Choir is open to all and is based at Charlton Memorial Hall. We get together on Tuesday evenings, 6-7pm, to sing a wide range of popular songs. We would love to welcome a few more members, the cost is £4 per session. No auditions required! Get in touch with Emma Perry on [emma.perry@astrop.co.uk](mailto:emma.perry@astrop.co.uk) or just come along.

## Newbottle & Charlton School Update



We started our celebration for our 150-year anniversary with a 'School Through the Ages' topic, learning about what school life was like in the past. We rummaged through archives and photos to see how the school has changed. We also had a special Victorian day where we immersed ourselves in what school life was like for children in 1872-1900s when the school opened its doors. The school was originally called the Charlton National School.

The children attended a mock-up of a Victorian classroom and learnt about the 4 Rs - Reading, Writing, Arithmetic and Religion. We found out that all the children would study in one room and then certain children would be monitors to assist the teacher. Learning was mainly done through rote. The children learnt what punishments the Victorian teachers used to ensure all the pupils behaved, including the cane, dunce hat, finger stocks and back board. Children looked at different artefacts and tried to guess what they were used for and completed other fun activities to learn all about Victorian school life. Below is a mock-up of a school photo in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Can you guess which is which?



On 15th January we held a Church service to celebrate the school opening and Birch class wrote a lovely poem to mark the occasion. See next page:



### 150 Year poem about our school - Created by Birch Class

150 years have now passed,  
Since January 1872.

A multitude of changes have happened,  
Let us celebrate the old and new.

Values are at the heart of our lives,  
Peace, trust, compassion and love.  
We are thankful for our wonderful school.

Buildings, people, land and place,  
Some things have stayed the same.  
But forever we will always know,  
Newbottle and Charlton remains our name.

Through 15 decades, eras and wars,  
Many children have come and gone.  
Teachers, friends and families,  
Our community is still going strong.

And continue to worship God above.  
Our school is such a happy place,  
Where we all have the chance to shine.  
Learning, playing and having fun,  
Memories will last a lifetime.

Since that first day in 1872,  
Our school has really grown.  
Who knows what it will be like years from now,  
The future remains unknown.

So let's celebrate together, here today,  
And wonder what the future will bring.  
We are proud to be part of the school's history,  
And in unity we shall all sing.

**We have many more things planned for this year!**

*Mr Smith, Headteacher*

At Preschool this term, we are looking forward to learning lots of new things. This term is all about **SHAPES, NUMBERS AND COLOURS**.

We enjoy walking around the village looking for different shapes in the environment. Can we find numbers on the doors, cars and bins?  
Do we know 2D and 3D shapes?

We are recognising numbers up to 10, linking numerals and amounts, comparing quantities and we are able to say numbers in order. We are experimenting with colours, mixing and matching and using colours for a purpose.

We are learning all about the Chinese New Year, this year it is the year of the TIGER.



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