

# CHARLTON LINK



Village News for the People of Newbottle & Charlton

ISSUE 373 MARCH 2020

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**WEDNESDAY 25TH MARCH @ 6.30pm**

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

## Services at Newbottle in March:

1st March: 9.30am Eucharist

5th March: 9.30am Holy Communion at 7 Cartwright Road, Charlton

8th March: 9.30am: Matins & Holy Communion

15th March: 9.30am: Eucharist

19th March: 9.30am Holy Communion at 7 Cartwright Road, Charlton

22nd March: 9.30am Matins & Holy Communion

29th March: 9.30am Eucharist

There will also be a Lent study/discussion group in the Church Room at King's Sutton on Thursday 12th, 19th and 26th March at 7.30pm. Our topic is "The 7 Last Words spoken by Christ from the Cross". All are welcome.

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Lent is now well under way, and somehow with the days lengthening, and the first signs of Spring just around the corner, it feels as if the year is accelerating. Soon it will be Easter.

Important days in the Church's calendar are known as feasts. This one will include a lot of chocolate for some people! But behind the familiar symbols of eggs and Easter bunnies lies a story to rival any TV box set.

Easter is about friendship and love, betrayal and loss, and death and life. It is, in part, because Jesus Christ experienced all this, responded to and taught about these things, that Christianity is still relevant.

We shall celebrate the feast on Easter Sunday, but the drama and emotion of the story unfolds over the whole of Holy Week, that is Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday. You are especially welcome to attend any of our services in that week.

If you've not been to church for a while, or at all, don't let that stop you. The ritual can occasionally seem strange, and although it all serves a purpose and helps to tell the great story of Christianity, it might seem a little daunting. However, it's perfectly fine to come along and just watch, to dip a toe into the water, so to speak. In fact, if you read the Easter story in the gospels you'll notice that the disciples were spectators for most of the key events, and yet their lives were transformed.

**Fr Matthew**

## Need a Minibus for your community group?



South Northants Community Minibus provides a service to local charities, community groups, parishes and schools across South Northamptonshire. We offer a 16 seater minibus which is regularly safety checked and driven by fully trained, friendly and helpful drivers. The minibus is available to hire seven days a week.

Our aim is to provide affordable transport for members to access events, activities and experiences which are important to them, which they would otherwise struggle to go to. We take folk on shorter local trips, for example to lunch clubs, meetings, inter-school activities and to local charities to volunteer. We also do longer distance trips including visits to the theatre, gardens, museums and exhibitions.

Access to affordable community transport is becoming ever more important in these times of diminished public transport. We want to ensure that people don't become isolated in rural communities and are able to enjoy companionship and life enhancing opportunities within South Northants and beyond.



If you would like to find out how to become a member and benefit from this scheme, it's free to register and we offer a 10% discount on your first booking. You can find more information on our website [www.snvb.org.uk/projects-and-services/community-minibus/](http://www.snvb.org.uk/projects-and-services/community-minibus/) or email [jeanette@snvb.org.uk](mailto:jeanette@snvb.org.uk) or call 01327 358070.

## **NEWBOTTLE PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING NEWBOTTLE & CHALRTON CHARLTON MEMORIAL HALL, MAIN STREET, CHARLTON COMMENCING AT 7.30PM ON MONDAY 20 APRIL 2020**

### **ALL RESIDENTS WELCOME TO ATTEND AGENDA**

1. WELCOME BY THE CHAIRMAN
2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
3. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 15 APRIL 2019 AND MATTERS ARISING
4. REPORT FROM THE COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR, REBECCA BREESE
5. OPEN FORUM – FOR ALL VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS TO ATTEND THE MEETING AND SUBMIT VERBAL REPORTS ON THEIR WORK AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS
6. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT OF THE YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2020
7. PRESENTATION OF PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS 2019-2020

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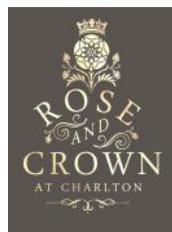
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Bookings Clerk at:  
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## Mother's Day

Come and join us to spoil  
those special Mothers

Sunday 22 March 2020

Booking Advised, phone 01295 811317



## CHARLTON LITTER-PICK



### Annual village clean-up

Saturday March 21<sup>st</sup> at 10am

More people = more litter collected = cleaner village

Litter-pickers and hi-vis vests supplied

Meet at 10am outside the village hall.

There will be a **Bag2School** collection from **Newbottle & Charlton Primary School** on **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March**.

If you have any unwanted, good quality clothes or paired shoes, please bag them up and leave them near the old school front door before 9am.



## Want to get involved with pigs?

I keep a couple of pigs to fatten in the little paddock at the bottom of Drury Lane. The piglets are Berkshires, a rare black and white breed with distinctive dished face and prick ears, bred by a friend in the Peak District for showing at rare breed shows.

My pigs are slaughtered in August/September at our local abattoir in Long Compton and turned into delicious sausages. The pigs have a great life, bring lots of joy and a limitless supply of sausages throughout the year! I'd like more pigs but struggle to eat more than one a year. Would you like to invest in a pig to join our crew for summer 2020 and enjoy the sausages they produce?

Last year's costs per pig were as follows:

Buy the piglet £50                      Transport £30                      Feed £95                      Slaughter & Butchery £175

TOTAL £350

I turn all of mine into approx. 500 sausages per pig (around 65p per sausage).

If you would like to get involved and see what you are eating without the hassle of looking after the pigs:

1 pig - £350 (assuming you have all sausages)                      ½ pig - £180 – has to be all sausages

¼ pig - £90 – Has to be all sausages

Maximum of 6 piglets comfortably fit in the field. If you'd like to try a sausage first, let me know.

Interested? Please call the farm office on 01295 811065 or email [ann@newbottleestate.com](mailto:ann@newbottleestate.com)

**Alice Townsend**

## Nature Notes

We did the Big Garden Bird Watch at the end of January at Walnut House. In the hour we managed to see a greater spotted Woodpecker, a wren and a nuthatch: the woodpecker and the nuthatch are occasional visitors to the bird feeders, while wrens are around but spend their time scratching about for invertebrates and tend to be hidden, except for their startlingly loud song. We had six sparrows, four blue tits, two long-tailed tits and two great tits, two crows, one collared dove and three blackbirds. Jackdaws were our most frequent bird with 11. Usually we see lots of starlings but we had none this time and no finches either.

At the time of writing we have had Storms Ciara and Dennis and the news is full of flood disasters. There has been a huge amount of rain in a short space of time and the water table is already so high that there's nowhere for the water to go. Charlton is on a hill and unlikely ever to flood - if it did that really would be Armageddon! But we will all have seen the fields either side of the Cherwell at Twyford and at Clifton just sheets of water as far as one can see. At last the powers that be are beginning to talk about the catchments: if drainage is improved all over the uplands and trees are cleared, that means that rainwater drains faster - and just gets deposited downstream into people's homes. And of course, every new house, every new road, every time a front garden is paved over - that increases the run-off into the storm drains and decreases what naturally soaks into the ground.

Apart from storms and rain, this has been a very mild winter and we have this morning noted a cowslip fully out and the first forget-me-nots opening. We have several varieties of daffodil in the garden and one we particularly like is called February Gold: this never manages to come out in February and has been beaten to it by several other sorts.

We have already seen the first bumblebees out and about on one of the warm sunny days: they visit our early crocuses. But bumblebees are in real trouble because of climate change. They are in drastic decline in many places because of hotter and more frequent extremes of temperature. They matter, like other bees, because of their importance in the pollination of crops. Scientists studying them, using records going back 115 years, think that they can be helped by making sure that habitats offering shelter are maintained: trees, shrubs and slopes allow bumblebees to get out of the heat.

We have written before about tree or bush ivy - the ivy that turns shrubby when it has nowhere left to climb, turns its stems woody and bears flowers and berries. Ivy berries are an important source of food for birds in winter, when there may not be much else. Interestingly, we have noticed that along the church path, where there is a mass of it in the hedge, the berries seem to ripen in succession, so different areas of the hedge are providing food at different times. The birds could just move along their dining table: as they clear one stretch the next becomes available.

**Deborah and Paul Hayter**



## Newbottle & Charlton School Update

School is at its fullest currently with 109 pupils - we are full in all year groups except space in year 4 and now one space in year 5. With admissions for September 2020 recently submitted by parents to the Admissions Committee, it is clear the school is highly popular in the local area.

Following the conclusion of our stained glass window project, where we created our own museum and art exhibition, learning in school now focuses on class topics.

Oak and Ash classes (Reception, Yr 1 & 2) are learning about Toys. They have explored their favourite toys, looked at toys through history, linked



dancing to toys and made a toy of their own. They will visit Banbury Museum for a series of toy workshops too. Elm class (Yr 3 & 4) are investigating rainforests. They have learnt about the different layers within a rainforest, read *The Great Kapok Tree* and made their own amazing rainforest in a box. They will further develop their learning with a trip to the Living Rainforest. Year 5 & 6 children (Birch Class), are learning about the production of bananas and chocolate whilst establishing a greater understanding of Fairtrade, providing some excellent learning opportunities. One of my favourites was a debate about how 30p should be split between 5 jobs involved in the banana chain production.

Test your banana knowledge here!

**Where did bananas originally come from?** Caribbean America Africa Asia  
**True or False?** Bananas grow on Trees.

Birch Class will welcome a visitor into school from the Ministry of Chocolate to experience all things chocolate — all day! Sounds fun!

The PTFA held a very successful quiz night and have now given children £5 as a start-up cost for their own business - look out for the next Alan Sugar or Karren Brady!

We would like to invite you to our next Community Tea with a Spring and Easter theme on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm!

*Mrs Smith, Head Teacher*

# Charlton Installation Services



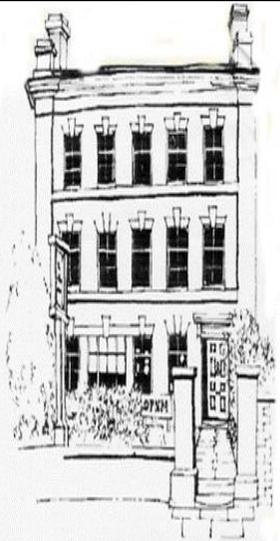
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