

# CHARLTON LINK

Village News for the People of Newbottle & Charlton

ISSUE 384 MARCH 2021

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

## Operation Hedgehog

You may have read or heard about Kirtlington and many other villages working together to create Hedgehog Highways and become more hedgehog friendly through simple actions.

Hedgehogs are in serious trouble and need our help, their numbers have declined by 90% since the second world war. The decline of urban hedgehogs is slowing but continues apace in the countryside. One of the main reasons why hedgehogs are declining in Britain is because our gardens are becoming more and more secure, reducing the space available to them.

Hedgehogs roam 1-2km each night during their active season so they need access to a wide range of gardens. A 13x13cm hole (5 x 5") in walls or fences will let hedgehogs through but be too small for most pets.



You can make a hole in your wall by removing a brick at the bottom, cutting a small hold in your wooden fence, using a piece of pipework in a wire fence or digging a channel underneath your wall, fence or gate.

Please speak to your neighbours and let's make Charlton's Hedgehog Highway the best around!

Find out lots more about how you can help hedgehogs with feeding, housing and making small adjustments to your garden at this excellent website:

<https://www.hedgehogstreet.org/>

**www.charltonandnewbottle.com**  
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#JusticedHenry

## Brian Boyles

Brian sadly passed away on 25/1/2021. Brian was born and raised in Charlton but for much of his later life he lived in Greatworth, however his heart always remained in Charlton.

He played cricket for the village team for many years and always supported as many village events as he could!



He also enjoyed his time with the local shoots at Newbottle Estate and Rainsborough where he kept us all amused with his stories and jokes. He will be greatly missed by all of us that knew him and our condolences go out to his wife Lorraine and his extended family.

## Eddie Gladden

### Are you fed-up with doing the same old walks?

Walking in Northamptonshire [www.walkinginengland.co.uk/northants](http://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/northants) is the website for you!

With hundreds of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, contact details for all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John said: 'There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Northamptonshire (part of the Walking in England suite of websites ([www.walkinginengland.co.uk](http://www.walkinginengland.co.uk)) – one for each county in England) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

**John Harris**

[www.walkinginengland.co.uk](http://www.walkinginengland.co.uk) email: [john@walkinginengland.co.uk](mailto:john@walkinginengland.co.uk)

## Nature Notes

The weekend of the Big Garden Bird Watch at the end of January was filthy rainy weather but we managed to do our hour in the garden in a rain-free interval on the Sunday. The winners were the starlings, of which we usually have a lot: we had fourteen that day. Next were sparrows, with six: we know we have far more sparrows than this in the garden, as we hear them all the time arguing and squabbling in the hedges. They are very noisy birds and tend to live a very communal life. We had six jackdaws, and we see these coming often to the bird feeders. We would prefer not to be feeding corvids as they tend to keep the other smaller birds away. Our tally also included a greater spotted woodpecker, four blue tits, a great tit and a coal tit, as well as a chaffinch and our usual robin and two blackbirds.

Since then we have had a pied wagtail in the garden: we often used to see these but hadn't had one visiting for some years, and we have also seen a bullfinch with its cheerful pinkish red breast and black cap. The female doesn't have this bright pinky-red colour so is less noticeable. We have mixed feelings about seeing the bullfinch as their prime food in season is the buds on fruit trees and they can strip the blackcurrants, plums and cherries of every single bud in spring. This meant that they were on the 'vermin' list in fruit growing areas until recently. They also eat insects when feeding their young and will eat berries and seeds as well.

We love wildlife but sometimes it is quite difficult to love what it does. We surprised two muntjac deer at the bottom of the garden recently and that is really bad news: they appear to have been eating the leaves off the cyclamen plants and last year nibbled a lot of tulip buds off. The dog gave them a good chase but they can easily get away and our garden walls (old field walls) are no barrier to a deer.

At the time of writing we are in a spell of warm and wet weather, but have just emerged from the cold patch when we had 'a beast from the east' and some really hard frosts. It always seems amazing that the snowdrops and early crocuses, which were in flower before the frosts, and seemed quite bowed down by the cold, many of them lying almost flat on the ground, can recover themselves and are flowering away again as though nothing had happened. Each snowdrop shoot produces a tiny amount of heat at its tip which is how they are able to push up through frozen ground and appear so early in the year. We now have a lot of snowdrops in this garden but they don't seem to spread themselves around very easily here, though they clump up and increase that way. Each year we dig up a congested clump or three and then spread those around to increase the display. They will grow in shady places, under trees and hedges and at the back of flower beds where nothing much else is happening. It's always lovely to see them in unexpected places where they must have put themselves, or been spread by birds: there is a random patch of snowdrops under the hedge by the church path, and at the turn by the main road into Aynho there are lots in the little patch of woodland there.

We have had a number of butterflies in the house this winter, Small Tortoiseshells and Peacocks. They come in during late summer and early autumn when it is still warm outside and our houses provide the right conditions for them. When the house gets warm with the central heating they are confused, but the conditions outside are not good for them. The best advice is to relocate them into an outside shed or garage, but they do need to be able to escape in the spring.

**Deborah and Paul Hayter**

**Notes of the Newbottle Parish Council Meeting**  
**Monday 25 January 2021 at 7.30pm**  
[www.newbottleparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.newbottleparishcouncil.co.uk)

**Present** – Chairman, Councillor Andrew Woods: Councillors Linda Baker, Richard Bland, Andrea Gladden, Michael Loggin and Diana Sheasby and Theresa Goss (Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer).

**Minutes** - The minutes of the meetings held on 16 & 30 November 2020 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**Resignation/Vacancies** – There are Parish Council elections in May 2021 and a number of current Councillors would be stepping down, therefore new Councillors would be required. If you would like any information on the role of a Parish Councillor, please contact the Clerk or one of the current Parish Councillors.

**Newbottle & Charlton Annual Parish Meeting 2021** – Due to the uncertainty of the Pandemic, the Parish Council would decide at its next meeting, whether the Annual Parish Meeting would go ahead this year.

**VAS Pole on Fathinghoe Road** – The pole which had been damaged would be replaced by the County Council.

**Footpaths** - The Parish Council considered a request from a resident to investigate the possibility of a permissive footpath from the Cemetery to Newbottle Woods. Having already contacted the landowners previously regarding this matter, Councillors were aware that they were not in favour at the present time, due to health and safety issues and walkers straying off the path.

**Books in the Bus Shelter** - The books which are located in the bus shelter in Green Lane, will stay there until the 31 January 2021. After this date, they will be removed and then brought back when the weather is better. Please contact the Parish Council if you have any queries on this. [newbottleparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:newbottleparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk)

**Charlton Village Shop & Post Office** – The Parish Council welcomed Struan Kenton to his new role of managing the village shop and post office. Thanks were passed to Keith and Stephanie Wilks for all their hard work running the shop and post office for a number of years and the Councillors wished them well for the future.

**Community Bus Service** – A community bus service was being run from the village to Brackley, Northampton, Banbury and Towcester. For more information, please call 'Ability' on 01327 604123.

**Street Lighting** – The Parish Council is responsible for the street lighting in the village and has a maintenance contract with Eon. If any street lights are not working please contact the Clerk to the Parish Council who will forward the information 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.

**Grass Cutting Contract 2021/2020** – The contract for 2021/2022 was awarded to Mr M Dempsey.

## Planning

S/2020/2391/RES, Land off Hogg Lane Charlton

Variation of conditions 1 (Plans) 2 & 3 (materials) 4 (metre housings) 5 (driveway details) 6 (floor levels), 7 (Construction details) and 8 (water drainage) of S/2019/1210/RES (Application for the approval of reserved matters comprising of layout, scale, appearance, landscaping, and drainage, development approved under outline planning permission S/2018/0036/OUT Two detached dwellings (outline) Additional floorspace within the roof and roof lights on rear elevations.

The Parish Council has concerns that due to the increase in the size of these properties, there will not be sufficient on-site parking, which will impact the neighbours with the increase in on-street parking, which in-turn, could also block this narrow lane for larger vehicles, including farm traffic.

S/2020/2394/FUL

Hunters Hatch, Main Street, Charlton

Part demolition of existing single storey. Proposed two-storey and part single storey rear extension, and demolition of garage with erection of single storey oak framed carport with ancillary space above.

The Parish Council has no objections to this application. However it noted the concerns raised by neighbours with regard to the reinstatement of the front door and the impact this could have on the parking situation on Hogg Lane, as it may encourage drivers to park near to the door and cause congestion.

S/2020/1567/MAF, Forceleap Farm Road to Hinton Airfield Newbottle

Conversion and extension of existing historic agricultural buildings to form a rural centre at Forceleap Farm. This is to include; 6 x office units (B1 use class), 2 x residential units for agricultural workers, 4 x rooms for short term / holiday lets, an events space, and the associated landscaping, servicing and access.

Approved by South Northants Council.

**Free Food Boxes** – The delivery of the free food boxes in the village had started again for those who required support during the pandemic, due to them self-isolating, loss of income etc. Anyone who feels they are eligible, should contact the Clerk to the Parish Council with their address details.

**Meeting Dates** - Future meetings, all starting at 7.30pm would be held on Zoom until further notice. Please contact the Clerk for the joining details.

15 March 2021

19 April 2020 (Annual Parish Meeting)

19 July 2021

20 September 2021

15 November 2021

**All welcome to attend!**

A copy of the draft minutes for the whole meeting are available at

[www.newbottleparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.newbottleparishcouncil.co.uk) or please contact the Clerk, Theresa Goss, at [newbottleparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:newbottleparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk) or ring 01295 710965 during normal office hours

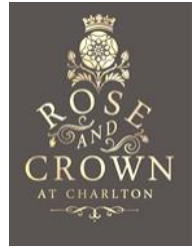
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special Mothers

**Sunday 14 March 2021 Mother's Day**

We will be offering a special take away  
menu for this day

Bookings and orders requested  
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please call us on 01295 811317

Menus available from  
The Rose and Crown



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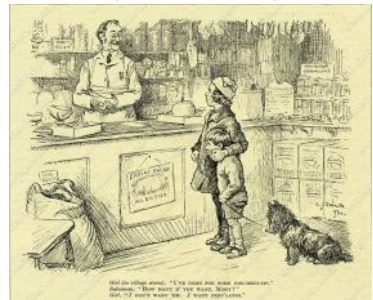
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## Charlton Shop & Post Office

Our first month in the Shop & Post  
Office has been very exciting  
Thank you all for your support, custom  
and encouragement

Gifts and cards for Mother's Day – Sun-  
day 14 March 2021 available

All orders for fresh meat and veg taken  
on Wednesdays for delivery on Fridays





## Newbottle & Charlton School Update

We have continued to keep open for children of keyworkers and those classed as vulnerable this term. After finishing our 'Emotions' topic, we started another whole school topic called 'Walking with Dinosaurs'. It started with some breaking news that a T-Rex had been spotted in the playground and a dinosaur egg had been found in Oak class.



Children at home and in school have been learning all about different dinosaurs, investigating when and where they lived and why they might have become extinct. Children also

learnt about how fossils are made and explored the village looking for them after studying the famous palaeontologist Mary Anning. Some classes had a go at making their own fossils out of clay.



For the rest of the term children will focus on their class topics which include 'Through the Keyhole', 'Water of Life' and 'Ancient Civilisations'. We will share more on these topics next month.

We are hoping that we can come back together as a whole school soon.

Stay safe,

*Mr Smith, Interim Headteacher*



*In Loving Memory of Phyllis Margaret Smith who passed away peacefully at home on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021.*

Phyllis lived on Brackley Road in Charlton for many years.

*“Forever in our Hearts”* ♥

# WANTED



**Do you care about Newbottle and Charlton?**

**Do you want to do something positive  
for your community?**

**Can you think, listen and act locally?**

**Elections to Newbottle Parish Council will be held  
on 6 May 2021\***

**Why not consider becoming a Councillor?**

**To find out more please visit**

<https://www.newbottleparishcouncil.co.uk/news-story.php?newsid=11>

**\*Applications must be submitted to South Northants Council by 8 April 2021**



Home-schooling is a phrase that has been used a lot over the last 12 months during the various lockdowns. I suspect most people, parents and children alike, have found it hard-going at times. For those of us who were last at school when feet and inches were the preferred unit of measurement, it's probably been quite challenging, I know it has been for me!

One thing that has struck me is that children don't just need to arrive at the right answer, they need to show how they got there, especially in maths lessons. You have to show that you, rather than the calculator, has worked out the problem.

That takes time, but in the end its worth it if the new knowledge acquired sticks in the pupil's mind and can be applied to other questions. Taking time to work out the big questions in life, such as: why are we here? is there a God? what happens after we die? sounds like the most formidable homework we could ever be set. The truth is that it is a lifetime's work to grapple with these questions, but we do also need to set aside some specific time to address them if we want to find any answers.

Lent is one of those specific times in the Church's calendar when the focus of our services is on these weighty matters. During these 40 days we can start to develop the spiritual skills to start doing our own working-out, to start moving towards answers.

This year Lent is a little earlier, and by the time you read this it will be underway, but there is plenty of time left before we reach Easter. **You are welcome to join us at our regular Sunday services. They take place at 9.30am every Sunday at St James' Church, Newbottle.**

We continue to have safeguards in place to ensure that our building is Covid secure. You are also welcome to just drop into Church for a quiet time of reflection on your own. The opening times are posted on the Church door, but generally it is open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday until about 4pm.

Wishing you every blessing for Lent and Easter.

Father Matthew  
fathermatthew.r@icloud.com  
Tel. 811364

## **HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES:**

Palm Sunday (28th March): 9.30am Procession from Charlton

Maundy Thursday (1st April): 10am Holy Communion

Good Friday (2nd April): 2pm Meditation

Easter Day (4th April): 9.30am Holy Communion

*Subject to Covid Regulations. Look out for more details on our Facebook page:*

*Facebook/St James's Church Newbottle & Charlton, and on the noticeboards outside the school entrance in Green Lane and outside the Post Office.*



We had a great first term back, the children all enjoyed getting back into a routine and playing with their friends. We had lots of new children join us and are busier than ever.



For our topic we looked at the books 'Room on a Broom', 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' and 'Guess How Much I Love You'. The children listened to the stories and talked about the different characters in the books.



The Stars (children going to school in September 2021), have worked hard in circle time to talk about sharing, rhyming skills, retelling the story and mathematical skills.

The Rainbows (children going to school in September 2022) have been working on their sharing, listening and personal social skills.

The Sunshines (children going to school in September 2023) have been listening for environmental sounds, repeating phrases from the stories and making caterpillars out of playdough.

## Farewell to Keith and Stephanie

In a socially-distanced, impromptu gathering, Charlton residents bid farewell to Keith and Stephanie Wilks on their last day of running Charlton Stores. Villagers gave Keith and Stephanie a heart-felt round of applause, some gifts and three cheers in appreciation of their 19 years serving the community. Happy retirement!



## Forceleap Farm update

Everything is very quiet at the moment down on the farm, bar the occasional sheep getting out or tangled up in brambles. Up at Forceleap it is the relentless rounds of feeding and bedding all 450 cows who are snug as a bug in their sheds and making sure they stay safe and sound. The spring herd will start calving in March, so we hope it will warm up a bit by then and the grass will start to grow so we can turn them out soon after birth.



As we approach the end of the hedge cutting season, Adrian has been making good use of the heavy frosts to finish this year's program. Our default position is to cut the roadside hedges every year, although we do let some sections grow up, just siding them up for a couple of years, in preparation for cut and laying them in the next few years. Inside the fields we cut the hedges once every 3 years and so we aim to cut a third of the Farm each year. This program means we keep vague control over the hedges but there are loads of berries and shelter for birds through the winter.

The last grain lorries are picking up the last few tons of grain from harvest 2020. This is in preparation for us to build a new grain store at Newbottle in the next few months. It has to be ready for this harvest... a deadline that cannot be moved!

**Alice Townsend**



**KATHARINE  
HOUSE  
HOSPICE**

### **EASTER VIRTUAL BALLOON RACE – 4 APRIL 2021**

Enter the race for just £3, and you're in with a chance of winning £500! Celebrate Easter and support those affected by life-limiting illness. Find out more [www.khh.org.uk/balloon](http://www.khh.org.uk/balloon)

### **OXFORD HALF MARATHON – 10 OCTOBER 2021**

Want something to work towards? Sign up to the Oxford Half Marathon! #RunForCharity for Katharine House and support our patients and families at the same time! Secure your place on Team Katharine House by registering at [www.khh.org.uk/oxford-half-marathon](http://www.khh.org.uk/oxford-half-marathon)

### **SWIM SERPENTINE – 18 SEPTEMBER 2021**

Have you ever wanted to take part in an open water swim? Do you want something to look forward to, later in the year? Why not join the team as they swim the Serpentine this September! There are lots of different swims to choose from to find out more head to [www.khh.org.uk/swim](http://www.khh.org.uk/swim)

### **LIVING WELL AT KATHARINE HOUSE**

We know that when you're affected by a serious illness you will have your own wellbeing and support needs, whether you're a patient, carer, family member or someone who has experienced a bereavement. The Living Well service at Katharine House is here to support you during such a time of change and need. Head to [www.khh.org.uk/living-well-at-katharine-house](http://www.khh.org.uk/living-well-at-katharine-house) for lots of useful resources.

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