CHARLTON LINK

Village News for the People of Newbottle & Charlton

ISSUE 374 MAY 2020

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

FREE FOOD BOXES

The Parish Council is distributing free food boxes to residents of Newbottle & Charlton every Wednesday. An average of 15 boxes are being delivered each week.

The distribution of the boxes is part of a South Northants Council initiative which Brackley Town Council is administering on their Behalf. Each box contains 10 store cupboard items and 5 fresh fruit and vegetable items.

The food boxes are for anyone who is in need, for example, those self isolating, the elderly, people with no income etc. The deadline for an order is 12 noon every Monday and boxes are delivered on a Wednesday afternoon.

Please email Theresa Goss, Clerk to the Parish Council, at newbottleparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk or ring 01295 710965 to place your order.

CHURCH https://newbottlechurch.weebly.com

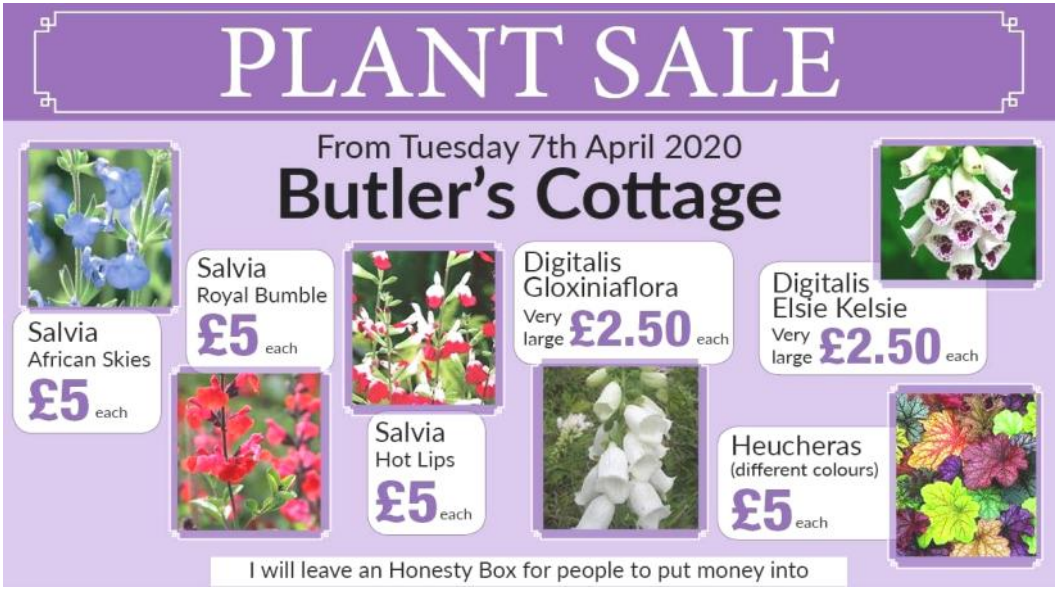
We are in the midst of the Easter season, though it's probably one of the strangest Easters most of us have known. Clergy have been told to close their churches to stop people gathering and spreading the Coronavirus. This doesn't mean that *the Church* is closed. The Church has existed for 2000 years and hasn't always owned buildings! Prayers and some services continue, and our parish website contains some prayers that can be said at home by anyone, at any time. Find the website at https://newbottlechurch.weebly.com.

I continue to pray each day for the wellbeing of everyone in the parish, and you are welcome to contact me at the Vicarage if there is someone in particular who you would like me to remember in my prayers.

What happens next? When, and how will life return to normal, and what will 'normal' be like? These questions are starting to be asked, but, as yet, no clear picture is emerging. From the Christian perspective you might call these 'Good Friday questions'. On that day the disciples had seen their hopes and expectations, their normal lives, suddenly taken away as Jesus was crucified. Yet the darkness did not overwhelm the light, and hope and life returned on Easter Day.

With my prayers and all good wishes,

Fr Matthew



The Rose and Crown Take Away Menu

All Pizzas £11.00
Beef Burger and Chips £11.00
Scampi and Chips £11.00
Jungle Curry and Rice £11.00 (Add Prawns £3.00)
Fish and Chips £11.00
Chicken Strips and Chips £11.00
Pie of the Day with Chips, Veg and Gravy £11.00
Salt and Pepper Squid and Chips £11.00
Veg Samosa and Veg Spring Roll Combo and Chips £11.00

Free Delivery within the village of Charlton
Collection available from the pub

We are here for you. The Rose and Crown Family
Call 01295 811317

If you are experiencing a mental health crisis, there is support available to you. Safe Haven, which operates in Oxford and in Banbury, is open during these difficult times, offering telephone support, and face-to-face support in certain circumstances.

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To make a booking or find out more, please contact Sarah, the Bookings Clerk at:
bookings@charltonmemorialhall.co.uk

ROSE AND CROWN AT CHARLTON

Dear Charlton Village
We hope you are all well and safe

We would like to thank you for your continued support, it is so appreciated

Please see our up to date take away menu on page 3

Available on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 5.00pm – 8.45pm

Call 01295 811317 to arrange your delivery or collection

Nature Notes

At the time of writing we have had a run of lovely warm weather – so warm that everything has come on very quickly in the garden and also goes over so quickly. It was the birthday of one of our children on Easter Saturday, when it was so hot, and we remembered that the night he was born, in 1978, there was an inch and half of snow on the ground – in central London. Quite a contrast.

We had the first picking of asparagus from the garden on the 10th April. Traditionally May used to be the month for asparagus, but certainly we were eating it in April last year as well. We heard a cuckoo – not very close – on the east side of the village on April 11th. Numbers of cuckoos have declined very dramatically in the last few years so it is always very exciting to hear one – a real sign of spring.

One of our neighbours has reported a jackdaw saga. They heard a scrabbling and scratching in the roof above a bedroom and thought at first they had rats in there, but then noticed on the outside that there was a hole in the pointing between the stones near the roof, with a pair of jackdaws flying in and out carrying twigs, clearly attempting to build a nest. The following day they saw a squirrel climbing up via a climbing rose and popping into the hole. A ladder was applied and a ball of scrunched up chicken wire used to block the hole. The next day the jackdaws had made short work of that and were coming and going as before, the wire on the ground. Next a wooden board was nailed over the hole but twenty fours later a neat round hole had been gnawed in it and the squirrel was also going in and out. The last we heard a metal plate was going to be applied – we're still waiting to hear what happened.

We were thrilled to count eleven newts in the pond one morning recently. This is most likely to be the Smooth Newt. Newts are semi-aquatic amphibians spending most of the year outside the breeding season feeding on invertebrates in woodland, hedgerows and tussocky grassland. In our case, probably they are in our flowerbeds which are generally good cover. They hibernate over winter underground, among tree roots and in old walls, which we have plenty of. We are most likely to see them in the pond at this time of year when they lay their eggs and wrap them in leaves in the water. When in the water they eat crustaceans, molluscs and tadpoles which explains why we never see frogspawn or tadpoles in our pond.

The results of the UK Butterfly and Moth survey in 2019 brought some welcome news. 2019 proved to be best year for butterflies since 1997, with just over half of UK butterflies showing higher population levels in 2019 compared to 2018. Some priority species such as the Adonis Blue, Brown Hairstreak, Dingy Skipper, Large Heath, Marsh Fritillary, Silver-Studded Blue, Small Blue and Silver-spotted Skipper are no longer in significant long-term decline, though many species are still declining. So far this spring we have seen a few Peacocks and Small Tortoiseshells (last year's) and a good number of Brimstones and Orange-tips, the first butterflies of spring. We have Garlic Mustard appearing as a weed all over the garden (about two foot high, roundish leaves smelling faintly of garlic when bruised, cluster of small white crucifer flowers, common along hedgerows) and have to leave some in situ as it is the food plant of the Orange-tip butterfly larvae. We saw Mrs. Orange-tip (who doesn't have the bright orange tips of the male) laying eggs on one of these plants, so will have to ensure that one stays there.

Deborah and Paul Hayter

Newbottle & Charlton School Update

School has remained open for those children who have key worker parents – about 5 children each day. Over the Easter holidays we were fully closed. Whilst at home, all children have been given a daily task by their teacher to complete as well as having a pack of work and some workbooks which the PTFA generously bought for each child.

This has certainly meant a new way of working and a variety of virtual activities have been undertaken. The older children have been having 'lessons' from time to time online whereas younger children have found different means to communicate with each other. It has been lovely still to hear from and occasionally see each other on screen, allowing for a bit of learning and social communication which is vital at these times.

We have had a staff meeting online and over the Easter holidays ran a little staff quiz too! Staff are using this time to complete a variety of CPD tasks as well as plan work for the children, write reports and look forward to the future learning.

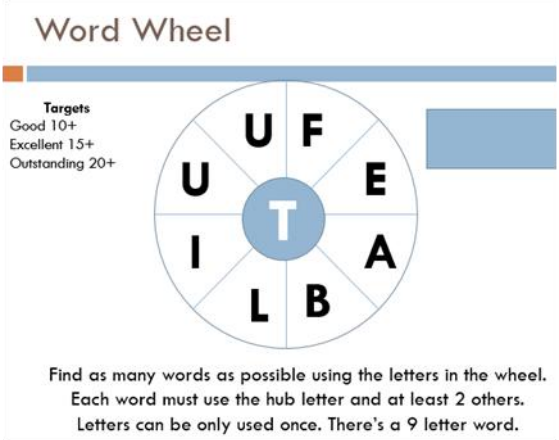
Primary School places were announced recently and it is wonderful that again Newbottle and Charlton School has a full cohort starting in September 2020.

It is a very strange time for me as in January I secured my next headship at a larger school in Oxfordshire. This means that after the May half term I shall be leaving. As it has been such a extraordinary time the recruitment of my successor only got so far and as result a permanent Headteacher has yet to be appointed. However, it is wonderful that Mr Smith (no relation) will be stepping up as Acting Headteacher once I leave, until the process can be completed.

Hope you enjoyed last month's puzzles – here are two more!

Mrs Smith, Head Teacher

Can you make 277 using all or some of the 6 numbers?



Cows and Horses around Charlton

I am sure in these difficult times we all appreciate the beautiful countryside we have access to. I am certainly seeing a lot of people really enjoying their one walk in the countryside, which is fantastic! Just a reminder that we have now turned out most of the cows to graze in the grass fields around the village. Remember the cows are easily spooked by people or dogs running about, flapping arms or loud noises. So, if you are walking across a field with cows in, please keep your dog on a lead, stick together as a group and keep the noise down! If the cows are in your way just walk around them, to avoid walking between a cow and its calf. If the cows seem distressed or you see something that concerns you, let me know so I can make sure everything is alright.

Sam at the stables is also working hard to implement Covid 19 protection measures, whilst maintaining the horses' welfare. They have to handle the horses and their equipment daily, so please keep away from the horses – no patting or feeding them. Please also avoid touching any of their tack and equipment such as rugs, buckets or fencing and tape, as the owners will have touched them as well. Please stick to using the footpath gates or stiles and keep your dogs on the lead as you walk through the horse fields.

I would like to say a massive thank you to everyone for all your support in keeping the livestock safe, as well as each other.

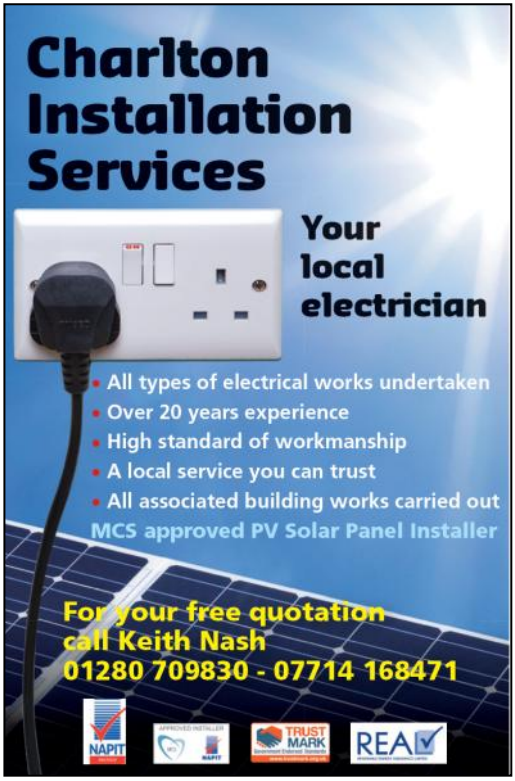
Alice – Newbottle Estate

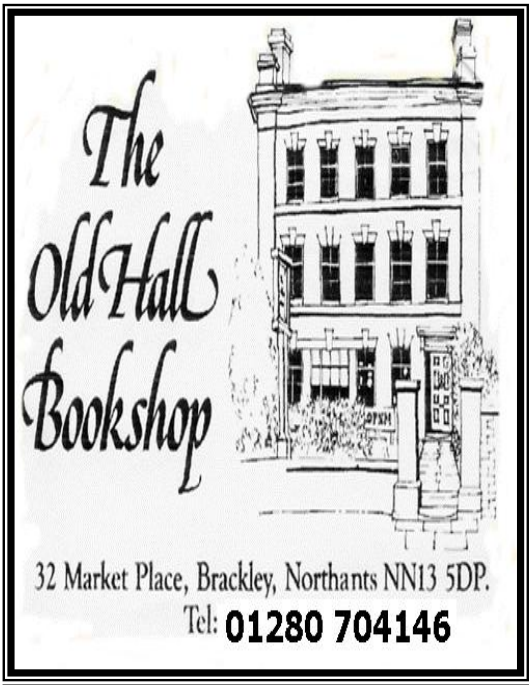
Changes to Publicising Planning Applications

As a result of COVID-19, the way planning applications are publicised has changed. Letters are no longer being sent to neighbouring properties informing them of an application next door to them. This has been brought in to combat the need for staff to attend the offices unnecessarily. Instead, neighbours of an application site will be notified by way of a site notice posted on or near to the site only. This accords with the legislation requirements for publicity of planning applications. Details on publicising planning applications can be found here https://www.southnorthants.gov.uk/info/173/planning-process/428/publicising-planning-applications

Due to the fact that some people aren't leaving their homes or have limited ability to leave them and may not readily see a site notice, the Parish Council can publish details of the applications received on the website and/or social media sites.

If you have any concerns please email development.management@southnorthants.gov.uk





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