

CHARLTON LINK

Village News for the People of Newbottle & Charlton

ISSUE 412 JULY 2023

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



Charlton Fete - Saturday 15th July, 2pm

Come along and enjoy all the fun of the fete:

all the usual games and stalls, treats, fun dog show, plants, tennis tournament, beer & BBQ and of course a famous afternoon tea!

As well as taking cash, a card reader will be available to purchase £5 or £10 worth of 50p/£1 tokens which can be spent at all stalls.

In the week leading up to the Fete, we will be knocking on doors to ask for bottle donations for the Bottle Tombola, as well as selling raffle tickets and delivering your Fete programme. We can collect bottles of anything – wines, spirits or even bubble bath!

The Fete is the most important fundraiser for our St James Church, Newbottle. Please join us and support this wonderful event

Read the Link in colour at www.charltonandnewbottle.com

Charlton Link Editor: Julia Rands, juliarands@hotmail.com 01295 812446

For a small village, Charlton has seen an amazing number and variety of great events this year already!

Thanks to all those who have helped to organise these fun times and to everyone who came along and supported. Here's a half year round-up of events held in the village so far in 2023:

Quiz Nights at the pub x 2
Easter Bingo
Drag Bingo
Produce Swap
Coronation street party
and competitions
Flagpole blessing
Big Help Out
Coronation Evensong
Litter Picking
Open Farm Sunday
Charity Cricket Match

Jack and the Beanstalk Panto
Palm Sunday Church service
Pop Up Café – Playing Field
Charlton Big Bike Ride



We can't wait to see what's in store for the second half of 2023!



Summer at the Rose and Crown

It's time to relax in our beautiful beer garden

Bring your families and try our summer garden menu created by our head chef Stuart and Christy

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Nature Notes

We recently spent a week in the Bavarian Alps looking mainly at wild alpine flowers but also identifying butterflies and birds as well. On one walk we found a group of about a dozen small butterflies, mainly Grizzled Skippers and Dingy Skippers, with a couple of Small Blues as well, all clustered together on a very stony path. What were they after? It seemed likely that a dog had passed that way and left its mark not long before, and the butterflies were feasting on the minerals this had released onto the path. Apparently the fossil record, which reveals the millions of years of evolutionary development that predate us, shows that butterflies evolved before flowering plants did. We all know of butterflies feeding on the nectar of flowers – think buddleia bushes with their attendant Peacocks and Red Admirals in August – but if butterflies were around before flowers, they must have fed on something, and it seems that what they survived on was minerals, from the ground or from other sources. We have before now seen a Peacock butterfly feeding on dog poo, and Purple Emperors are known to descend from the heights of trees, their normal habitat, to feast on animal excrement.

Going back to the long evolutionary development of the tree of life, when flowering plants appeared butterflies found an exciting new source of calorie-rich nourishment in the flowers' nectar, but they obviously still need some minerals and take them when they can. Both the Grizzled Skipper and the Dingy Skipper are rare in this country (but we saw a Grizzled Skipper in Ardley Quarry last summer), so it was exciting to see a number of them, and we also saw several Camberwell Beauties (though it seemed odd to be calling them Camberwell Beauties in Bavaria). This is a rare migrant arrival in Britain, but has not been known to breed here. It is a large and handsome darkish butterfly with a very distinctive white border all round the wings.

In the Alps we saw lots of alpine flowers, and it is always exciting to find the flowers that we grow with care in the garden, just growing wild in the meadow grass, or across stony slopes. We saw masses of *Primula auricula*, true Oxlips, Lady's Mantle (in variety), alpine Gentians, Trollius (Globe flowers) and much, much more. Possibly the most exciting was the day during which we saw so many clumps of Lady's Slipper Orchids in full flower that we were positively blasé about them by the end. This is Britain's rarest plant, reduced to one site in the Yorkshire Dales by the end of last century, though there is now a programme to reintroduce it and increase the number of plants and sites, in order to maximize its chances of survival.

It is rather less stunning, but it was still a pleasure to see a Pyramidal orchid in the Stonepits field where we have found it before. The stonepits are about to be awash with the yellow of Lady's Bedstraw, and there is already a good deal of Bird's Foot Trefoil or Eggs and Bacon, spreading low to the ground.

We have been introduced to a brilliant bird-song identification app for a smart phone, called Merlin, which is run by Cornell University. It listens to what is going on and lists which birds are singing, flashing up those singing at that very moment. This has added an extra layer of interest to the morning round of the garden with the dog. So far it has listed all the birds that we knew we had: robin, wren, blackbirds, tits in variety, pigeons, jackdaws, sparrows, starlings, an occasional carrion crow, greenfinches, chaffinches. But it has also suggested a blackcap and a dunnock, and a spotted flycatcher which we've certainly never seen. We're awaiting an ornithologist friend to tell us if we really have those.

Deborah and Paul Hayter



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Newottle & Charlton School Update



Last month children took part in a Prayer Space Day on the playground. These days enable children and young people, of all faiths and none, to explore life's questions, spirituality, and faith in a safe, creative and interactive way. The theme for the day was the value of Thankfulness. Children visited different stations to carry out activities to reflect on this value and to think about their lives and what they are thankful for. It was run by some of our governors and was a really lovely day as the children got to mix up within the whole school and attend the sessions in small groups.

It was also that time of year again for the children to take part in our annual Mini Mud Run! Lots of fun was had getting wet and muddy to raise money for the PTFA. All children get to take part including some of the adults in school and spectators cheer on armed with water pistols to soak the participants as they go past. Here are some of the fun photos we took of this fun afternoon.



We have lots of things planned for the month of July including Sports Day at the playing field on Monday 10th July; Birch class (Year 5/6) production called Robin Hood and Sherwood Hoodies and we welcome new children into Reception for some transition sessions before saying goodbye to our Year 6s on the last day of term with a special Leavers' assembly.

I hope you have a good July!

Mr Smith, Headteacher

Accommodation around Charlton

Did you know that the Farmhouse and a one bed annex at Forceleap are available for holiday or short term lets? We also have the shepherd's huts down Drury lane for holiday lets in the summer. We are expecting to have a couple of cottages coming up for rent in the village in the next month or so. For all enquiries about accommodation at Newbottle Estate please contact lulu@newbottleestate.com

Open Farm Sunday 2023

Open Farm Sunday started with an interview with BBC Radio Oxford before we opened the gates at Forceleap Farm. This time it was a scorcher, and we had a record number of visitors up from 705 last year, to 1,175 people this time.

What a busy and hot day we had! As usual, everyone enjoyed the tractor and trailer rides and being able to climb in and out of the machinery, especially the combine. The sheep looked particularly grateful to the shearers as their heavy fleeces were sheared off.

I was particularly grateful to some of the professionals who help me manage the farm, for volunteering their time to talk about their role on the farm. This included the farm vet, agronomist and beekeepers. We also had our pop-up café selling ice creams and cold drinks and Smith and Clay put on a BBQ and Pavement Coffee came with their van.

We were also supported by volunteers from the playgroup and school as well as the playing field, along with my amazing staff. And how could we forget Trevor with his magnificent birds of prey! All in all, (drum roll please) we raised about £1,500 for the playing fields restoration project (exact total yet to be finalised).

Thanks to all those who got involved, especially everyone who volunteered their time as well as our sponsors for making it all a great success.

Alice, Forceleap Farm



Playing Field News...Playing Field News...Playing Field News...

Playing field HQ is gearing up to support the **Charity Cricket Match** and we're keeping everything crossed for good weather and a great match. We've also ordered some benches and picnic benches from our local fundraising which we hope might arrive in time. A full account of the match will be provided in the next edition!

We're in the midst of fundraising applications so we're finalising designs for the pavilion and the pump park and getting updated costings to enable us to submit. Once designs are agreed we'll share these via The Link, our FB page and at the playing fields.

We were super grateful to the Forceleap team for nominating the Playing Field as their charity for Open Farm Sunday. Thank you to the farm team for such a fantastic day.

Fundraising events for after the summer: Look out a **Charity Car Wash in September** (funds for the pump park), a **Pop up Cafe** to support the football and the **Charlton Big Clear Out** on Sunday October 15th - more details to follow. AND another **Bike Ride**, so add 9th June 2024 to your calendars! Over the summer, **Trevor is running a bootcamp** on a Sunday morning at the playing field at 10am, open to anyone!

July feels like 'high summer'. As I write this the weather is warm and sunny, and in church and in our villages we are looking forward to two key dates in the season.

At 2pm on Saturday 15th July we will have our Summer Fete. As ever, this promises to be a wonderful afternoon with lots of stalls and activities. A lot of edible treats will be on sale, and there will be much to see and do. Do come along, and bring your friends and family with you. I'll look forward to seeing you there. If you'd like to take part, perhaps by helping on a stall or baking a cake, do let me know.

At 9.30am on Sunday 23rd July we are having a Family Service in church to celebrate our patron saint, St James. Our family services are proving to be wonderful occasions, and I am grateful to all the children (and adults) who are leading different parts of each service. Our last such service took us walking through the parish on Rogation Sunday. Happily the warm weather had arrived, and we were able to offer our appreciation and thanks for God's love for us, expressed in our beautiful surroundings. Our next service will be an opportunity to focus on St James, a good role model for us in our journey through life. As always, we shall be inviting children to take part by reading our Bible readings and leading our prayers. Contact me at the address below if you have a child that would like to do so. If they go to the village school in Charlton there will be an opportunity to volunteer for the service through the school. Whatever your age do come along to church for this lovely family service at 9.30am on Sunday 23rd July. All are welcome.

Lastly, and on a more personal note, at 3pm on Sunday 2nd July there will be a special service at King's Sutton Parish Church. This will replace our normal Sunday morning service. This service will mark my formal Institution and Induction as Vicar. Until now my appointment has been a temporary one, however from the 2nd July it will be permanent. Everyone is welcome to attend the service, and refreshments will be served afterwards.

I hope you have an enjoyable and restful summer.

With my best wishes,

Father Matthew

Tel. 811364, email: fathermatthew.r@icloud.com

Facebook/St James's Church, Newbottle & Charlton

Website: <https://newbottlechurch.weebly.com>

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

EVERY SUNDAY IN CHURCH AT 9.30AM

(EXCEPT 2nd JULY WHEN WE HAVE A SERVICE AT KING'S SUTTON PARISH CHURCH AT 3PM)

SUNDAY 23RD JULY AT 9.30AM: FAMILY SERVICE IN CHURCH TO CELEBRATE OUR PATRON SAINT (ST JAMES)

THURSDAY 13th JULY (AND FORTNIGHTLY THEREAFTER) AT 9.30AM:
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