

CHARLTON LINK

Village News for the People of Newbottle & Charlton

ISSUE 401 AUGUST 2022

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Playground Passes Safety Inspection

In July, the playground at the Village Hall was inspected by RoSPA to ensure that the equipment and surrounding area meet the required health and safety requirements. The report mainly highlighted only low levels of risk across the playground (which is what we want!) and a handful of medium risk items that we will address.

This excellent result wouldn't have been possible without the help of our volunteers who have given up evenings and weekends to ensure that the playground remains safe for the children that use it. The Trustees would like to thank; Andrew Beadle, Phil & Evan Wolfe, Kevin Ridge, Tim Collins, Wayne Rule, Alex Lomas, Ian Jones, John Snelling, Jay Naylor and Tom Phillips for all their hard work over the last 12 months.

Moving forward, we will be setting up regular maintenance dates from April to June to make sure the playground remains in tip top condition and we need more volunteers - especially parents of children who use the park - to help, even if it's just for an hour or two.

If you're in the playground and notice something or are able to offer some help with maintenance please contact:
bookings@charltonmemorialhall.co.uk



See the Link in colour at www.charltonandnewbottle.com

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

**Notes of the Newbottle Parish Council Meeting
Monday 18 July 2022 at the Memorial Hall, Charlton
www.newbottleparishcouncil.co.uk**

Present – Parish Councillors Linda Baker, Mark Bracey, Struan Kenton and Kevin Ridge. Theresa Goss (Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer) and three members of the public.

Vacancy – Following the resignation of Phil Marshall, there is a vacancy on the Parish Council. If anyone is interested in joining, please contact the Clerk. newbottleparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk or 01295 710965.

The Parish Council expressed its thanks to Phil for all his work during his time as a Councillor.

Playing Field and Pavilion – The Parish Council received a report on the progress with the project and it had currently stalled because changes were required to the Lease, between the Parish Council and the Trust, to enable grant funding to be accessed.

This matter would be chased up with Spratt Endicott and it was also agreed that the Parish Council would meet the legal costs for the changes to the Lease, match fund £3000 for the works to the perimeter footpath around the playing field and support the current Working Group to become the Playing Field Association (PFA), which would operate as a Sub-Committee of the Parish Council.

Post Office and Village Shop – At the current time, the shop and Post Office would remain closed as a solution had not been found to enable a re-opening.

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.

Library Bus Shelter – The Library in the Green Lane Bus Shelter is continuing. Thank you to Jenny Barker for organising this.

Flagpole – Investigations would be made into a flag pole for the village and it would be discussed further at the next meeting.

Street Lighting – A quote from Eon was accepted for replacing the current street lights with LED lights. These changes were required because the bulbs which were used in the street lights had now become obsolete.

If any street lights are not working, please contact the Clerk to the Parish Council with the lamp number/location and this information will be forwarded 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.

Fly Tipping – If residents are aware of any fly tipping, please report this to West Northamptonshire Council. <https://www.southnorthants.gov.uk/report> or call [0300 126 7000](tel:03001267000). They will collect the rubbish and also gather evidence, which will then help them prosecute the offenders.

Parking Issues – The Parish Council kindly requests that drivers do not park their vehicles on the footpaths in the village. Parking on footpaths means that pedestrians and especially those with pushchairs or wheelchairs have to move into the road to get past the vehicle. This is clearly very dangerous and residents should not be putting other residents in this dangerous position, especially when everyone is so aware of the speeding issues through the village. **Please park considerately in the village.**

Grants – Annual grants had been made to the following organisations:
£650 to the PCC for the maintenance of the Cemetery;
£150 to The Link

Planning – The Parish Council had no objections to the following application:
WNS/2022/1083/FUL
13 Farthinghoe Road Charlton
Single storey extension to rear. Hip to gable extension. Rear first floor dormer to accommodate loft conversion

The following planning applications had been determined by South Northamptonshire Council's Planning Committee/Planning Officers, since the last meeting of the Parish Council: None

Planning applications can be viewed on the South Northants Council web site.
<https://snc.planning-register.co.uk/planappsrch.aspx>

Meeting Dates - Future meetings, all starting at 7.30pm would be held at the Memorial Hall, Main Street, Charlton.

19 September 2022

21 November 2022

All welcome to attend!

A copy of the draft minutes for the whole meeting are available at www.newbottleparishcouncil.co.uk or please contact the Clerk, Theresa Goss, at newbottleparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk or ring 01295 710965 during normal office hours

You can also follow Newbottle Parish Council on Facebook

Nature Notes

At the time of writing we are in the middle of a heatwave, with extreme heat and drought. The grass in the garden is entirely brown, feeling crunchy underfoot instead of soft, except for a patch at the bottom where we think there is some water underground and the soil seems to remain dampish. The grass does tend to look as if it is entirely dead, but one good rain and it greens up in no time.

There is rather a lot about butterflies this month. We hope that lots of you will be doing the Big Butterfly Count which is taking place now: there is still time to participate as it continues until 7th August. You can sign up at bigbutterflycount.org, where you will find an ID sheet, and then spend 15 minutes in the sunshine in a garden, park or field headland. This is another large-scale citizen science project which enables lepidoptera experts to get an overview of how butterflies are doing across the whole country. There are many anecdotal reports of the lack of butterflies – buddleia bushes used to be covered in them in July and August – but when many thousands of reports are entered into Butterfly Conservation's interactive map a fuller picture can emerge. Last year record numbers of butterfly counts were submitted (over 150,000), but they recorded the lowest average number of butterflies (nine per count) since the survey began in 2010. Half of Britain's 58 resident butterfly species are threatened or near-threatened with extinction, while even the 'common' species like the small tortoiseshell are becoming rarer. Our count, done in the garden on 17th July at 11am in sunny warm weather, was as follows: 5 Meadow Browns, 7 Small Whites, 3 Small Tortoiseshells, 5 Peacocks, 2 Commas, 3 Large Whites, 1 Brimstone, 4 Gatekeepers, 1 Ringlet, 1 Green-Veined White. This seemed like a good tally.

We also take part in an annual butterfly survey of the wider countryside for Butterfly Conservation, once in July and once in August. Our allotted patch covers Forceleap and the edge of Hinton airfield and we walk two stretches of 1 kilometre recording all the butterflies we see. The results are fed into another national database which enables Butterfly Conservation to judge how butterflies are faring. On the afternoon of 13th July, in three-quarters of an hour, we saw 10 Large Whites, 13 Small Whites, 14 Marbled Whites, 62 Meadow Browns, 20 Gatekeepers, 24 Ringlets, 2 Small Heaths, 2 Small Tortoiseshells, 2 Peacocks, 10 Small Skippers and -- a real rarity -- 1 Dark Green Fritillary. Altogether a good result.

Some of the difficulties faced by butterflies may be due to climate change: it may be that butterflies are emerging earlier because of the warmer climate, and then they are out of sync with the plants that they need both to feed on and to lay their eggs on. But probably their decline is mostly due to habitat loss and the use of chemicals.

We are having real problems with the incursions of unwelcome wildlife into the garden. We think it was the muntjac deer that ate half of the broad bean plants and then quite a lot of the bean pods on the remaining plants; we think it was deer that nibbled off the first courgettes just when we thought there would be a picking for us; but was it the badgers or the deer that stripped all the ripening plums off the low-hanging branches of the plum tree? Luckily there are plenty left for us higher up out of reach.

Deborah and Paul Hayter



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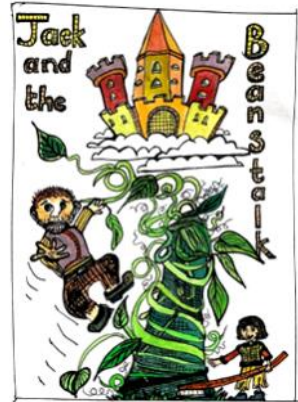
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PANTO DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Due to holidays and other commitments, the Charlton Panto Players' performance of Jack and the Beanstalk will return to its normal schedule of February half term. Performance dates will be **15 - 18 February 2023.**



HELP PLEASE!

There is LOTS going on in the village and we could do with some support.

The Village Hall is embarking on a three year development programme and the Playing Field is undergoing major regeneration. Both of these projects need help.

The good news is that for now, we don't need more committee members for either, so if meetings are not your thing then you are in luck!

So what do we need?

- ⇒ 'Worker bees' so that we can cut costs, this might be a working party to clear the grounds at the Village Hall or cutting stakes and binders at the Playing Field for when we lay the fence in the winter
- ⇒ Fundraising applications – pulling together the relevant documentation and summarising projects to apply for grants
- ⇒ Project Management – for example, we may apply for new windows and solar panels at the village hall and need someone to oversee this
- ⇒ Event support – for any future fundraising or community events in the village

I would love to get more people involved, by splitting the different tasks out hopefully it will mean that its not as daunting. The workload is really increasing now so please do get in touch. My email is della@thecurvegroup.co.uk or 07736 859124.

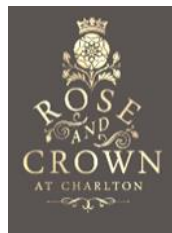
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Where has the year gone, we have been so busy with different topics. We learnt about different people's jobs and the festivals celebrated around the world. We looked at rhymes and rhyming through the books of Julia Donaldson, we have been working on our letters, numbers, and shapes. This term we have been looking at being healthy, brushing our teeth and staying safe while playing.

We had a great sports day, despite the heat, with a great turnout. The children enjoyed running, bike, beanbag, and spoon races. We said goodbye to our Pre-schoolers, we will miss them loads. We are looking forward to learning all about different environments when we return in September.



Charlton Village Hall

We had a productive AGM and Trustees meeting in July - always looking at ways to improve the Hall for all users. See page one for the important maintenance undertaken at the playground.

Our next indoor project will be to offer WIFI to hall users and secure funding for new windows, curtains and boiler, which will make the hall more energy efficient and attractive.

We welcomed two new Trustees and planned our meetings for the rest of the year. If you'd like to join our small group of Trustees or could just offer some practical help occasionally, we would be delighted and grateful. Please come along to our next meeting on 7th September or email bookings@charltonmemorialhall.co.uk.

As I write this article, preparations for the Summer Fete are being finalised, and it promises to be a wonderful afternoon. Thank you to everyone who has worked so hard to organise and run it, prayers have been said for fair weather!

Looking further ahead, we are also planning a short family service to mark our Harvest Festival at 9.30am on Sunday 25th September. Do put that date in your diary. Weather permitting, we will begin at the grain store, just along the lane from the church, in Newbottle Road, and then walk to the church. We are blessed with beautiful countryside in our parish, and this will be a wonderful opportunity to enjoy it as we give thanks for God's creation and the harvest from which we benefit.

However, before September we have the summer ahead of us. Our modern lifestyles, with their established routines, can take from us a sense of anticipation for the changing seasons, and with it the opportunity to pause, reflect and recollect. I was reminded of this on Wednesday 20th July when our village school came to church to celebrate the end of this academic year. It was a lovely occasion, and blended both celebration and recollection as we gave thanks, for the blessings of this past year, for 150 years of the school's work, and for those who are now leaving.

How easy it would be, in the busyness of life, to just carry-on, or simply give 'a nod' to the passing of time. Instead, we took time out of a busy week to really reflect or, as you might say, count our blessings. Throughout the gospels we read of Jesus taking time to do just this, to reflect and recollect, it is a way to 're-charge our spiritual batteries', and it creates a space in which we can see, sometimes for the first time, the often undetected work of God in our lives.

I hope this summer will provide you with a similar opportunity, and I wish you every blessing.

With my best wishes,

Father Matthew

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

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

EVERY SUNDAY IN CHURCH AT 9.30AM

THURSDAY 4th AUGUST & THURSDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER AT 9.30AM
AN INFORMAL SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION AT 7 CARTWRIGHT ROAD,
FOLLOWED BY REFRESHMENTS

SUNDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER AT 9.30AM: HARVEST FESTIVAL FAMILY
SERVICE BEGINNING AT THE GRAIN STORE, NEWBOTTLE ROAD

ALL ARE WELCOME



Newbottle & Charlton School Update

It was lovely to see so many people join us for the 150-year Anniversary Celebration! We started the afternoon with the children singing some beautiful songs including one we found in the old school logbook. Each class then took a decade from the last 150 years to dance to. Oak class (Year R/1) did an 1870s dance, Ash class (Year 1/2) tackled a dance from the 1920s. Elm (Year 3/4) danced to the hustle from the 1970s and Birch (Year 5/6) did a pandemic inspired Tiktok dance from the 2020s.

We had a Bake-off competition too which I had to judge. I was very full after trying all the amazing cakes that were made! We had souvenir stalls, food and drink and children could make their own badges and medals. We even had a bouncy castle and a magician! We had found some old class photos and snippets from our logbook which goes all the way back to the first day of opening which was January 1872. A brilliant time was had by all and a big thank you to everyone who came to support it and to all the volunteers and staff in helping organise and run this special event.

Other events for this busy term included a fantastic Sports Day on a Commonwealth theme this year; our Birch class production which was called 'Pirates of the Currybean' and our family favourite Mud Run. We also said goodbye to those who are moving on from our school and a temporary goodbye to Miss Hirst who is off on maternity leave from September. We will miss you all!

Have a lovely Summer everyone!

Mr Smith, Headteacher





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