

# CHARLTON LINK

Village News for the People of Newbottle & Charlton

ISSUE 414 SEPTEMBER 2023

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

So many great events have taken place so far this year in Charlton! Check out our Village Calendar so you'll know exactly where the fun (and fundraising) is happening in the village for the remainder of the year.

If you have an event coming up, then do let us know so that we can publicise it.

2023	Village Event	Raising money for
<b>September</b>		
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	Annual Tennis Tournament	Church
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> September	Harvest Festival	Church
<b>October</b>		
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> October	Charlton Big Clear Out	Playing Field
	Halloween events - pumpkin trail and carving competition	Playing Field
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> October	Rose & Crown kids Halloween colouring competition	
<b>November</b>		
Wednesday 11th November	Act of Remembrance - War Memorial	
tbc	Quiz at the Pub	Playing Field
<b>December</b>		
Sunday 10th December	Carols in the Carpark	Children's charity and Xmas tree
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	Carol Service - Church	Children's charity

With renewed interest in Charlton Cricket since the match against the Rose & Crown in June, more summer fixtures were arranged. The latest friendly took place over the August Bank Holiday weekend against a team in Fringford. Check out next month's Link for the results.

**Read the Link in colour at [www.charltonandnewbottle.com](http://www.charltonandnewbottle.com)**

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## Nature Notes

We have a rain gauge in the garden and as there has been a lot of rain recently it has had a lot of use. July was recorded as an exceptionally wet month and during August there have been many days with a third of an inch, a quarter of an inch, half an inch of rain. June with its lovely warm weather seems a long time ago and the school holidays have been generally damp with occasional days of sunshine. As we garden on extremely dry, sandy, free-draining soil, it has been interesting to see how many plants are telling us that in a normal summer they don't get enough water. The dahlias are taller than usual and very floriferous, the runner beans are reaching for the sky, the sweetcorn plants look huge with lots of cobs, but they need more sun to ripen well. We love phlox, but they are usually looking very stressed about now and needing water but this year they are luxuriant and still looking good.

There was an item in the news last month about red kites stealing food in the Chilterns, which reminded us that we recently saw a red kite taking advantage of readily available picnic treats. We were in the Chilterns amongst a number of people eating picnics before a musical event and suddenly a red kite swooped down and grabbed a napkin full of goodies which had been left unattended on a table, though there were plenty of people round about. This was about 50 yards away and we saw it flying off with the bright blue napkin in its talons. But in its swoop it had dropped a number of the items so it then returned several times to collect the bits which were scattered in the grass. Watching how it did this was a fine sight: it came back, circled, hovered and then folded its wings back and dived, very fast, beak first for the ground, only levelling out at the very last minute to grab what it wanted in its talons and then without any halt swooping upwards again. It was quite a show.

In the past few years we have had occasional red kites around Charlton, but just in the last few weeks we have regularly seen what seems like a pair in the fields either side of the church path. They have a very distinctive cry, a bit like a cat but not really mewing which is what buzzards do. Buzzards are often circling very high up so that you hear them before you can see them, but red kites are usually closer to the ground, and easily distinguishable by their forked tails.

We always like to see toads in the garden and are sure that we don't have enough. There is plenty of food for them here as slugs and snails are abundant. We used to have one resident in the greenhouse but we haven't seen that one for ages. However we found one in an extraordinary place: clearing ivy off a wall and out of a gutter on one of the buildings there was a large toad sitting in the gutter – about 8 feet off the ground. How did it get there – and why? I can't imagine toads being good at climbing but we can only suppose that it had clambered up through the ivy. It's easy to tell toads from frogs as toads walk – or waddle – rather than hop like frogs.

We try to garden to encourage wildlife, never using insecticides, for instance, growing lots of good plants for pollinators, and leaving odd corners messy (this summer rather more bits are messy than we intended), but we draw the line at allowing pigeons and caterpillars to chomp all of our brassicas, and have erected a serious brassica cage to keep them out. So far that has worked, and there are plenty of other plants for them to go to. Courgette plants often get mildew on the leaves, and we have discovered that we shouldn't take those leaves off in a tidy way, as 22-spot ladybirds eat just the leaf mildew, and it doesn't harm the fruits.

**Deborah and Paul Hayter**

# Newbottle and Charlton CEVA Primary School



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# CHURCH

<https://newbottlechurch.weebly.com>

This year our Harvest Festival service takes place at 9.30am on Sunday 24th September. Do come along, all are welcome.

It will be a family service and we are looking for volunteers to read the lessons and the prayers. All the texts will be provided and, as in previous years, it will be good to have local farmers and children taking part. If you'd like to participate please contact me on the number or email address below.

At Harvest we celebrate the fruits of the land and all that goes into harvesting those fruits. This includes the skill and expertise of all who work the land, and those who form part of the complex chain of endeavour that enables us to eat and drink and meet the basic needs of life.

Underpinning all that labour is the, often unseen, hand of God. Whether it be in the created order from which the seasons emerge each year, or what you might call the raw material of harvest, the soil and the seed and the gift of knowledge and learning possessed and shared by farmers, all has its source and beginning in God.

Our existence, the existence of these elements and people which combine to make the harvest are a token of God's love, as they are the way in which He shares His creativity with us.

Harvest can also be a time of personal reflection. An opportunity to turn the soil in our own lives to allow for new growth. To assess the gifts we have, the talents with which we've been blessed, and to reconsider how we use them. We might also detect the hidden hand of God at work, guiding and nurturing us. A time for reflection then, as well as thanksgiving, as the season turns. Come and join us on the 24th September as we celebrate our Harvest Festival.

With all good wishes,

Father Matthew

Tel. 811364

email: [fathermatthew.r@icloud.com](mailto:fathermatthew.r@icloud.com)

Facebook/St James's Church, Newbottle & Charlton

## FORTHCOMING SERVICES

EVERY SUNDAY IN CHURCH AT 9.30AM

HARVEST FESTIVAL FAMILY SERVICE: 9.30AM SUNDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER

AN INFORMAL SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION FOLLOWED  
BY REFRESHMENTS AT

7 CARTWRIGHT ROAD, FORTNIGHTLY AT 9.30AM ON ALTERNATE  
THURSDAYS FROM 7TH SEPTEMBER.

*ALL ARE WELCOME*

To raise funds for the Community and Sports Centre on Milton Road, Adderbury, you are invited to bring your items along to an Antiques Roadshow event and have them valued. £3 per item or £5 for two items.

Professional experts in antique valuations will be there:

Frances Noble — Jewellery Expert (Noonens-Mayfair)

Michael Welsh — Ex-Phillips and Bonhams

Robert Bradlow — Oriental Ceramics at Sotheby's

Others to be added.

**Saturday 21 October 2023, 12 noon to 3pm**

**Adderbury Parish Institute**

Contact [adderburypc@hotmail.com](mailto:adderburypc@hotmail.com) for more details.

A licensed bar will also be available.



**Sunday 29 October 2023 4pm**

### Halloween Fun

Colouring in Competition for all our local children

We will provide the drawings, just bring your crayons

There will be different age categories up to 12 years old

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## **Bon Voyage!**



In September, Alice, Toby and Mikey will head off on an amazing adventure across the world. Spending time in Ghana, South Africa and New Zealand embracing their cultures, traditions and education.

We wish them safe travels and lots of exciting adventures that we look forward to hearing about on their return. We hope you have a wonderful time!

## **Forceleap Farm update**

News from the farm is as mixed as the summer weather. The harvest has been a stop and start affair. The endless rain through July dulled some really promising yields and we will probably end up having a very average year, after what had looked like bumper crops in the spring.

The cattle are rolling around in grass, in contrast to last year, where there was not a blade left by this time! As farmers we are on the front line of the increasingly serious effects of climate change.

On a more personal note, I am off on a sabbatical this month and so will be away for a year. If anyone in the village needs to get hold of the Estate or farm:

The Estate Office at Forceleap: 01295 811065 or email: [info@newbottleestate.com](mailto:info@newbottleestate.com). For most enquiries this is the first point of contact. The office is open every Tuesday and Thursday 9am – 5pm. The Old Farmyard venue at Forceleap – To make an enquiry about holding an event please contact [info@forceleapfarm.com](mailto:info@forceleapfarm.com).

In a Farm emergency like fire, cows on the road or in distress, please call Andrew the stockman on 07917 816390 but for all normal enquiries call the Estate office.

Any other issues contact Mr Townsend at Cherry Orchard or Eleanor Bland at the Cottage who can probably point you in the right direction.

**Alice Townsend**

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