

# CHARLTON LINK

Village News for the People of Newbottle & Charlton

ISSUE 348 JANUARY 2018

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and our advertisers*

## SPRUCE UP DAY

HELP CLEAR THE MEMORIAL HALL GARDENS

SATURDAY 20<sup>th</sup> JANUARY - 10am

BACON ROLLS PROVIDED

PLEASE BRING ANY USEFUL GARDENING TOOLS



The next Memorial Hall  
Committee Meeting will  
take place on Wednesday  
24th January.

Please come along and  
find out more about what  
the Trustees do.

## Nature Notes

We happened to be driving down the M40 rather early one morning recently and while going round the big curve that skirts Otmoor we saw large flocks of starlings doing the reverse of the 'murmurations' that are so spectacular at the end of winter afternoons. Otmoor is well known as a good spot to see this amazing sight: groups of starling flock together from all corners of the compass and then they wheel and turn about in the sky making extraordinary patterns. We believe that no-one has quite worked out how they co-ordinate it, as hundreds, if not thousands, of birds change direction all at once with no apparent leadership or orders being given. When the flock is huge and there appear to be no more late stragglers joining in, the whole lot plummets down into the chosen roosting site, with an audible 'whoosh' from thousands of wings all together. Until the other day we hadn't known that starlings 'murmurate' in the mornings too: the big flock breaks up and smaller groups go off in different directions. Otmoor is a great place to see winter birds, as it is maintained by the RSPB as a wet reserve and attracts very many winter visitors, particularly different sorts of ducks and waders.

The lake by the Brackley road and the field around it is proving very popular with birdlife. We have recorded the number of resident geese there in the past: there were four, now only one. But recently a solitary swan has arrived to join it. There has been at least one visit from eight Canada geese, and probably more will follow.

We like it when neighbours report their own sightings and we have been told that a Little Egret has been seen visiting the lake too. We think this is a first here. Little Egrets are pure white herons, about half the size of our native Grey Heron, with a dark bill and dark legs. They paddle about in shallow water feeding on small fish and crustaceans. 25 years ago the sight of a Little Egret was enough to get serious bird-watchers into a frenzy of excitement, as they were very rare visitors from the Continent, but their numbers have built up and they are now resident in the UK with about 700 breeding pairs, mostly concentrated along coasts and in estuaries. It is thought that they are moving their range northwards because of climate change.

Hérons have been very visible in the village recently; there was one pretending to be a statue by our pool last week (we hope that our newts were well hidden), we saw another fly across Main Street, and there are occasional visits from a heron (or perhaps more than one?) to the lake.

Despite the recent snowfall and heavy frost, the sparrows are definitely building their nest – or nests – in the eaves above our back door. They drop a lot of surplus muckage – twigs, dry grass and a lot of downy feathers – onto our back doorstep where we can't help but see it. Have they not taken any notice of the cold weather? We are hoping that they are not thinking of breeding straight away as if they did there wouldn't be anything to feed the chicks with in the New Year.

**Deborah and Paul Hayter**



## Newbottle & Charlton School Update

Despite the snowy conditions at the end of last term, we embraced a number of Christmassy events, starting with our annual **'Let's Make**

**Christmas'** afternoon where children made a craft to be sold at the Christmas Fayre. The Fayre was a huge success with Santa attending, a great raffle, Year 6 running some games and our new catering company helping in the café. The PTFA has helped us by purchasing a stage and stage lights. We are now fundraising for some new library furniture.



The stage and lights were used very effectively for our KS1 **Nativity - 'A little bird told me'**. This was a fabulous show where the children sang confidently, said their lines well and remembered when and where to get on and off stage! The **KS2 Christingle** event, which is traditionally held at church, took place at school due to the

icy conditions. The atmosphere was still amazing and some key messages about bringing light into darkness were shared.

We had our termly Peripatetic concert with lots of Christmas tunes played by our superbly talented children who learn an instrument.

Every other year we visit the Derngate in Northampton to see a pantomime and this year we saw Aladdin - oh yes we did! The children were superbly behaved and really enjoyed the show.



The choir sung at a number of events last term, most notably the Brackley Carol Concert at St Peter's Church in Brackley and also at Fairholme House residential home in Bodicote, where they were welcomed back for a second year. In March the choir will again be singing at Wembley which is very exciting! It has been a very busy two terms, with so much achieved. Thank you for your continued support of the school. Here's to a happy and healthy 2018.

***Mrs Smith, Head Teacher***

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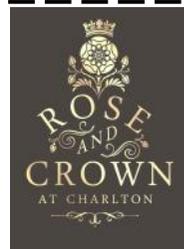
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**Wishing you a very Happy New Year  
and thank you for all your support  
in 2017**

## **Upcoming Events**

**Tuesday 23 January 2018:  
Burn's Night - includes traditional  
Burn's Dinner & poetry readings.  
Menu available on request from the  
pub, pre-booking essential**

**Wednesday 14 February 2018:  
Valentine's Dinner**

There will be a **Bag2School** collection from **Newbottle & Charlton Primary School on Tuesday 23 January**. If you have any unwanted, good quality clothes or paired shoes, please bag them up and leave them near the old school front door before 9am.



Bag2School is a **free fundraising scheme** for Schools, Community Groups and Charities to help raise money from donations of clothing. Unwanted textiles are collected and sold to importers and wholesalers in many countries of Eastern and Western Europe, Africa and Asia.

Accepted items: men's, ladies and children's clothing; paired shoes; handbags; hats; bags; scarves/ties; jewellery; lingerie; belts; soft toys. Not accepted: duvets, bedding, blankets and household linen; pillows and cushions; carpets, rugs and mats; curtains; towels; soiled, painted, ripped clothing; school uniforms; corporate clothing and workwear; textile off cuts, yarns or threaded material.

The school has raised hundreds of pounds through Bags2School over the years, money has been used for school trips and equipment. Please support us if you can.



Will we get any more snow this month? These children in Charlton certainly hope so! They really enjoyed making 'Sid the Snowman' and although he didn't last long, they were pleased that he brought smiles to some faces.

Happy New Year from me and don't forget to get in touch if you have a story you'd like to be included in Charlton link this year.

**Julia Rands, Editor**

**CHURCH Fr Roger Bellamy, The Vicarage, Kings Sutton**  
**Tel: 01295 811364 <https://newbottlechurch.weebly.com>**

Services at Newbottle

7<sup>th</sup> Epiphany Sung Eucharist: the Archdeacon of Northampton, the Venerable Richard Ormston will be with us.

14<sup>th</sup> Epiphany II Matins

21<sup>st</sup> Epiphany III Sung Eucharist

28<sup>th</sup> Epiphany IV Matins Education Sunday Service 3pm

At King's Sutton January 7 4pm Christingle to which you will be welcome.

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**COME AND JOIN US for Education Sunday on January 28<sup>th</sup> at 3pm**

Education Sunday reminds us that the learning in which we all engage is about truth. Whether it be maths, Spanish, history, science, technology, communication skills all these things contribute to making us richer as people.

Meanwhile our schools, colleges and universities are places in which the “teachers” work very hard, often with limited resources to provide the best possible education for their students - young and not so young. The Church has long been at the forefront of education and the school in Charlton is a Christian foundation.

However, all who are involved in education will be welcome. It is an opportunity to reflect before God on the world of education and to seek God's blessing on the local schools and people from our communities involved in whatever capacity - teachers, governors, administrators, support staff – in their work.

If you have read as far as this you probably have some interest in the Christian Faith. Perhaps you would like to find out more and perhaps with a small nudge from me you might like to come to a service. As you come in you will be welcomed and given the service book and a hymn book. There are no reserved seats - although many people do sit in the same place! So you are welcome to sit anywhere. Perhaps you can persuade a friend to come with you. We do not bite! And you may discover that this speaks to some of your deepest needs.

As always email me or leave a message on my phone if you would like to talk.

**Fr Roger**

[rogerbellamy@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:rogerbellamy@hotmail.co.uk)

## To everyone in our community

... who has donated, run marathons, climbed mountains, baked cakes, raced cars, or bikes, or boats. To people who chucked their change in a bucket in the town centre, or popped in to hand over a cheque. To Midnight Walkers and Santa Fun Runners, shoppers and raffle ticket buyers. To carers, to doctors and nurses, to volunteers who give up their time to care for people facing life-limiting illness:



**KATHARINE  
HOUSE  
HOSPICE**

**We couldn't do what we do without your support. And we just wanted to say a very big thank you.**

In 2017 we cared for over 1,000 people. Every one of them made an impact on us, and we hope we've been able to make a similarly positive impact on them. We believe that everyone facing life-limiting illness in our community should have the opportunity to continue a full and vibrant life until their last moments, and that their friends and family should be supported after they're gone. Because we believe that every individual's journey matters.

It costs us £3.7 million to provide our services each year, and we only receive 30% of that from the government. The kindness and generosity you show year after year by donating, visiting our shops or taking part in an event really does make a huge difference to local people at their most difficult times. Thank you again.

## Craft Market Success

On 25th November, Charlton Memorial Hall hosted a Christmas Craft Market with all proceeds going to the **CHARLTON PAVILION PROJECT**.

The market stalls were a mix of handcrafted items, cards, gifts, jewellery, books and soft furnishings, alongside this we ran a cafe with many donated cakes.



From the stall fees, a 50 square raffle, cafe takings, donation pot and the money raised on the Brownie stall, a massive **£230.00 was raised for the new pavilion.**

Many thanks to everyone who helped with the running of the market and who came to shop on the day.

**Nicola Watson**

# Charlton Installation Services



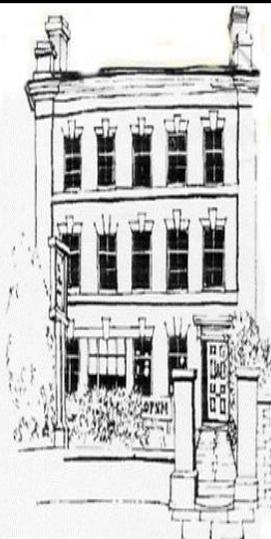
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