

CHARLTON LINK

Village News for the People of Newbottle & Charlton

ISSUE 388 JULY 2021

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and our advertisers*



All the fun of the Fete!

Saturday 17th July 2021

Come and spend a fantastic Saturday afternoon at
Charlton's traditional Village Fete.

With all your favourite games and stalls:

- ★ slippery pig
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- ★ bar & BBQ
- ★ egg throwing
- ★ bottle tombola

★★ **New this year : under 12's Fancy Hat Parade!** ★★
Children - make a fancy hat for the parade
Prizes awarded at 2.30pm

The Fete raises essential funds for the upkeep of our St James Church, Newbottle and as we missed out in 2020, this is a very important fundraising event.

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



Your Playing Field – Have your Say Day **Saturday 31st July 2021 10am–1pm**

We are really keen to know what the village wants from the Playing Field? So please come along and 'Have your Say' on 31 July. We are also consulting with the children in the village at a school event before the end of term.

This is your chance to raise your views in how the Playing Field could change to make it a facility that the whole village can use and be proud of. We want to know what you think - maybe an all-weather path around the edge? Picnic Tables? Replace the pavilion? An outdoor gym? It is also of course the opportunity to also raise what you don't want!...

There will be suggestion boxes in the Shop and the Pub so if you can't make it along on the day so please pop your suggestion there.

The Parish Council is keen to ensure that there is proper consultation with a clear way forward, so that an action plan can be created, focusing on realistic timescales. We also will need energetic and committed individuals to be able to deliver the project, so if you want to get involved please contact Phil Marshall via Charlton Chat or by email philnewbottle@gmail.com



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Charlton Panto 2022

The planning for Jack and the Beanstalk has begun, the all important dates for your diary are **16 – 19 February 2022**.

If you would like to join in, follow Charlton Panto Players on Facebook. There will also be monthly updates in the Link, ahead of casting and the start of rehearsals in September.

The **Charlton Produce Swap & Sale** that took place at the Memorial Hall in May was a big success, with almost £300 raised for St James Church, Newbottle.

Thanks to everyone that swapped their rhubarb, plants, eggs, jams, chutney, honey and socks! And to those who popped by for a cup of tea, slice of cake and to buy a few items. Thanks also to the local businesses who advertised their services.

The event was such a success that it is planned to be repeated in September with even more produce grown and harvested over the summer.



Bus Shelter Book Exchange

Last summer the bus shelter in Green Lane was put to use as a temporary book exchange. Now the weather is improving it might be worth restarting.

If this is something the village wants, please let us know.

This will need a dedicated volunteer to keep things neat and tidy and maybe rotate the stock if there are too many books. Could this be you? We can't have a library without a librarian!

Please email newbottleparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk or contact a Parish Councillor if you can help.

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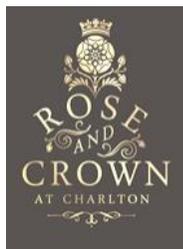


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Nature notes

Admiring the numbers of Jack-go-to-bed-at-noon along the church path caused us to think about the common names of flowers. This is the plant with dandelion like flowers, but on a taller stem and without the rosette of dandelion leaves: it is distinguished by the long, pointed bracts sticking out round the rosette of yellow ray petals, and its Latin name is *Tragopogon pratensis subsp. minor*. It is called Jack-go-to-bed-at-noon because the flowers only open in the morning sunshine. Apologies to any of our readers called Jack, but there is another common plant here called Jack-by-the-hedge, or Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*). This is a food plant of the Orange-tip butterfly, and now seems to be one of our most common weeds in this garden. Its leaves smell garlicky when crushed, and it has now become a seriously invasive and troublesome alien in the Northeast, Midwest and Northwest of the United States. There is a native plant in eastern North America, in woodlands and thickets, called Jack-in-the-pulpit, or alternatively bog onion, brown dragon or Indian turnip (*Arisaema triphyllum*): this can be grown in gardens here.

There is a whole group of plants which are named for their supposedly medicinal properties: all the Woundworts - Field, Hedge and Marsh woundwort (*Stachys* varieties) have been used since Roman times for treating wounds, and Lungwort was used in the treatment of lung disorders, as its spotty leaves were supposed to resemble lungs. Its Latin name is *Pulmonaria*, and another common or garden name for it is Soldiers and Sailors, as its clusters of flowers are in pinkish red and blue at the same time. Soapworts (*Saponaria*) produce a soapy-like substance, and this is still used by bodies such as the National Trust to clean precious old textiles such as tapestries and embroideries. We can only suppose that concoctions of Nipplewort were used for the obvious purpose: this is a very annoying annual weed in this garden which manages to hide itself growing until it suddenly appears with its small yellow flowers at a height of three feet in amongst something where it shouldn't be.

Why all the *Hypericums* are called St. John's Worts we can't guess, unless it is simply that they tend to be coming out at midsummer. St. John's Day is June 24th, and this was one of the old-fashioned 'quarter-days' when agricultural rents were due.

The Cranesbills and Storksills are named for the shape of their seedpods: the Cranesbills are mainly the true wild geranium and the Storksills *Erodiums*. They all have cup-shaped flowers with five petals in shades of blue, pink and pinky-purple but the seed pods develop into a long spike. Most of us have never seen a native crane or stork, but this is a reminder of a time when these were common birds for ordinary country people who were naming their wild flowers.

It seems a pity that gardeners and garden centres no longer tend to use the old-fashioned 'common' names for flowers. Snapdragons are usually now called *Antirrhinums*, and Lady's Mantle *Alchemilla mollis*, though Foxgloves have remained as Foxgloves (did people imagine that foxes wore the flowers as gloves?), and Hollyhocks and Wallflowers have kept their identities.

Pinks were called Pinks because the edges of their petals were 'pinked' as with a pair of pinking shears. It was only as a metaphor that the colour became known as pink, in the same way as orange became the name of a colour by transference from the fruit.

Deborah and Paul Hayter

As I write, the European Football Championship is underway. Just before one of England's games someone joked with me that I should be saying a few prayers for the team.

Of course, this was meant more as a comment on England's chances, rather than on God's interest in football, but it reminded me that we Christians can sometimes fall into the trap of thinking that some things are too trivial for God. But nothing could be further from the truth.

Our medieval forbears, who built our beautiful Parish Church in Newbottle, would have thought us very strange for not offering every thought, word and deed up to God. For them saying your prayers wasn't just a case of words said in Church, important though they are, but also actions elsewhere. The baker baking the bread for use in the service of Holy Communion, or to feed his neighbours, was offering up his prayer and worship in the action of baking the bread. The stonemasons, carpenters and others, whose work still lives on at St James's, and in other buildings in our villages, would have thought of their work as worship too.

So it was heartening to see Marcus Rashford, the England forward, make the sign of the cross as he came onto the pitch in one of England's games. That small gesture points to his personal faith, but also indicates that he was offering up his work to God.

It also illustrates a bigger truth. That none of us, and nothing that we do, is irrelevant to God. So there's nothing wrong in praying for your favourite football team, though of course you might not always like the answer you get, but pray also for, and about, every aspect and detail of your life.

Prayer isn't about changing God's mind, its about changing us who pray, and those for whom we pray. The more we commend to God in prayer the things and people that matter to us the greater and better that change will be, and the more we will fulfil our God given potential.

Wishing you every blessing,

Father Matthew

Tel. 811364. fathermatthew.r@icloud.com

CHURCH SERVICES AT ST JAMES, NEWBOTTLE IN JULY: EVERY SUNDAY AT 9.30AM. ALL ARE WELCOME.



Newbottle & Charlton School Update

At the end of last term Elm class (Y3/4) and Birch class (Y5/6) were able to go on a school trip which everyone was very excited about. Elm went to the Roman Museum in Towcester and Birch went the Black Country Living Museum in Dudley learning about what school and life was like in the 1800s and early 1900s. The museum staff on both the trips were really impressed with the children's knowledge of the topics and their behaviour.



At the start of this term was S.T.E.M week where we focussed on lots of themes linked to science, technology, engineering and maths. We started with Atomic Science visiting the school to launch the week with a whole school assembly on the power of air to make planes fly. Atomic Tom then carried out hands-on workshops with each class looking at food chains, forces and what it takes to be a scientist. We also had a visit from Junk Orchestra where the children got to play a range of instruments made out of recycled and reused materials and objects.



All the children took a trip out to the woods to explore living things and took part in 'The Great 2021 Bug Hunt' and celebrated World Ocean Day, thinking about protecting our natural world and the role we can play in creating a sustainable future. Oak and Ash classes (YR,1&2) also did some litter picking around the village.

Our week ended with a visit from a parent who spoke to the children about her work for N.A.S.A, it was very interesting and the children had many great questions. It was lovely to see the children so engaged and enthused in their learning - there has been lots of great teamwork, perseverance and creativity demonstrated across the school.

We have been able to plan some end of term events but tweaked due to current covid-19 guidelines. We will be doing Sports day on the playing field but in bubbles and will be performing our summer production but outside on our school playground. We hope you have a lovely summer and that the next academic year will be more normal for us all.

Mr Smith, Headteacher

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