

Dates for your diary

Thursday 6 October

CCRA Annual General Meeting followed by
Question Time with
MP Matthew Pennycook
7.30pm (doors open at 7.15)
St Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road

Saturday 15 October

Quiz Night

7.30pm (doors open at 7.00)
St Richard's Hall Swallowfield Road
Further details on page 6.

Saturday/Sunday 26 and 27 November

Open Studios – new event

Full details to be confirmed

Saturday 10 December

Christmas Social

Family event – all are welcome
4-7pm at St Richard's Hall

Classified ads

Domestic help needed - suit active lady, non smoker, good English speaker, fortnightly, £12.50 an hour, general domestic housework. House off Charlton Road. Diana 020 8858 5886.

Join Lewisham Choral Society for an evening of sublime choral and orchestral music, Saturday 12 November 2016, 7.30pm
Great Hall, Goldsmiths, Lewisham Way, SE14 6NW

Schubert: Mass in E Flat

Schubert: Offertorium: Intende Voci

Mozart: Piano Concerto in C ('Elvira Madigan')

Forest Philharmonic Orchestra: Conductor: Dan Ludford-Thom-
as; Piano Soloist: Nico de Villiers;

£15, £13 (concessions), £5 (full-time students), £2 (16 and under)

Available from: www.lewishamchoralsociety.org.uk or on the door

Grapevine reaches more than 1,000 homes and retail outlets, in our designated area and beyond. To advertise contact grapevine@charltonresidents.org. Rates for individuals and small businesses: small ads up to 15 words plus contact details: £10 for 1 issue, £30 for 4. Panel ads single column 8cmx8cm: £40 for 1-4 issues, £35 for 5+. Other sizes please enquire.

Comments, feedback, queries or material for the next edition of Grapevine should be emailed to: grapevine@charltonresidents.org by 14 November. Alternatively, phone Joy Ogden on 0208 293 3034 or Bob Smith on 0208 853 2697

Calling all foodies

Earlier this year we held an international food evening. If you came, you might want to try out some of the recipes – if you missed out there is an opportunity for you to try and recreate some of the dishes. Some of the recipes used can be found on <http://www.charltonresidents.org/groups/recipes/>

Crafts handmade in Charlton

Open Kitchen Table Sat 26 & Sun 27 November
Artists and Makers will open their houses to show their handmade crafts. Excellent opportunity to buy some unique Christmas gifts made by your talented neighbours.

Full programme will be circulated nearer the time. If you are interested in opening to show your crafts then please email Sarah and Jane at handmadeincharlton@gmail.com

Please help us monitor our air quality

Generous donations have enabled CCRA to carry out Air Quality surveys over the past two years - we plan to do another in February and would be most grateful to receive any donation towards the inclusive cost of each diffusion tube which costs £9.

Did you know?



Have you ever wondered what that funny building on the Peninsula is? It's an Energy Centre, set to be the largest new-build district residential heating system in Europe when it is completed at the end of this year. By 2030 it says it will provide low carbon heat to around 15,000 local homes. www.greenpen.london



CHARLTON GRAPEVINE

VINTAGE 39 ☁ October 2016
The newsletter of the Charlton Central Residents Association

The Producers!

Exhibits hailed as judges give thumbs up to our fifth show

“It’s one of a kind and one of the best.” That’s the verdict from the judges who had the difficult task of choosing prize-winners in our fifth annual flower and produce show at St Richard’s Hall on Saturday 10 September. There were a number of highlights at the event. For the second year in a row, children from our neighbourhood primary school, Fossdene, had all entered items that, depending on year group, included a variety of models, paintings, puppets and poems. Forty-six children will receive awards which will be presented at the school.

Once again members of the Blackheath and Greenwich WI exercised their expertise in judging categories in flower arranging, growing, baking, preserving, photography, knitting, patchwork, jewellery making and children’s entries. CCRA is grateful not only for the diligent judging but for the extensive feedback they gave. Judges provided explanations for their decisions and hints and tips on how to improve their entries for next year making this a real learning experience. We are especially grateful to Carol Singleton (President) and Emma Taylor (Vice-President) for their leadership and organisation. In a short speech, Carol commented on the unique nature of CCRA’s flower and produce show.

Perhaps a measure of this special quality could be seen in the first prize awarded to Philippa Chaplin for the exquisite bouquet she had knitted for her own wedding. A full list of prizewinners for the 103 entries can be found on CCRA’s website (charltonresidents.org).

STOP PRESS

CCRA’s Christmas Social will be on Saturday 10 December. A limited number of stalls will be available at a bargain price of £5. If you have something to sell contact events@charltonresidents.org to book a space..



Elaine’s picture is top trophy winner

Elaine Picton from Wellington Gardens poses with Len Weir as she receives the trophy for best in show for her cross-stich picture. The Show is Len’s brain-child and came from his love of the annual flower and produce event held in his native village in County Wicklow, Ireland. Len and wife Beverly, former residents of Elliscombe Road, now live in Preston but they decided to leave a lasting legacy by creating the Len Weir Perpetual Trophy for the first time this year. Len set out to convince us all that making our part of the city closer to the friendly nature of village life was worth striving for.

CCRA’s AGM

Join us at St Richard’s Hall, Swallowfield Road on Thursday 6 October for CCRA’s annual general meeting. We’re approaching our tenth anniversary and keen to enlist more volunteers for the management committee. We’d also welcome help on our environment and planning groups. We are delighted to say that local MP Matthew Pennycook will be there to listen to and answer your questions. Doors open at 7.15pm. Prompt start at 7.30pm.



It’s Quiz Night again! The fun starts at 7.30 pm on Saturday 15 October at St Richard’s Hall. Full details, see page 6.

Tall buildings or tall storeys?

Errors over a planning application at the Valley House site on Woolwich Road (on the corner of Gallions Road) have led to a situation in which public interest was nearly ignored. After a catalogue of confusion, Greenwich Council has admitted to errors and given assurances they will not happen again.

In April, Greenwich Council passed a revised scheme for the site to allow up to 7-storey high buildings to provide 73 residential dwellings plus ground floor shops. In June, CCRA was astounded to learn that even before the revised scheme had been heard by Greenwich's Planning Board, the developer had submitted an appeal to the Planning Inspectorate regarding the original application. This was for buildings up to 9-storeys high to provide 74 homes and ground floor retail use. It had been refused. The appeal was to be dealt with at an "informal hearing".

The developer's appeal claimed the project would not be financially viable with fewer than 9 storeys, and said tall buildings already existed locally. The

buildings referred to were not nearby (some were on the Royal Arsenal site); and the developer neglected to mention to the Planning Inspectorate that a revised scheme, was being submitted. CCRA and a number of individuals made vigorous representations to the Planning Inspectorate highlighting the inaccuracies in the developer's case; and on 30 August the council told them that the appeal had been withdrawn so the hearing scheduled for 31 August would not take place. As no-one was told of the hearing further inquiries are underway to discover what happened.

If the appeal had not been withdrawn, the hearing might have taken place with no opportunity for the community to exercise its democratic right to be heard. Greenwich Council has admitted to an administrative error arising from communication problems with the Planning Inspectorate. CCRA has been assured procedures are now in place to prevent any such mistake in the future.

The logo for conranestates, featuring the company name in a lowercase, sans-serif font. To the right of the text is a small graphic of three dots of increasing size arranged in a diagonal line.

Charlton's Leading Estate Agent

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A black and white photograph of a large, historic brick building with multiple chimneys and a central entrance, likely Charlton Church Lane. In the foreground, there is a large, ornate stone archway with classical columns. The scene is set in a grassy area under a cloudy sky.

46 Charlton Church Lane, Charlton SE7 7AB
t. 020 8293 0454
e. charlton@conranestates.co.uk

Wanted: Toy boys and girls!

Many readers with young children will be familiar with Charlton Toy Library which holds drop-in sessions three times weekly at Charlton House. Even if your children are no longer young you may have used the toy library as it has been serving Charlton children for over 30 years. If you're a new parent or just new to Charlton check out all the toy library can offer you. You can go to the website (charltontoylibrary.co.uk) or phone 020 8319 0055.

The toy library is a voluntary organisation that relies on grants from organisations such as Children in Need and the help of volunteers. They are currently advertising for new volunteer assistants. If you have some free time and enjoy working with children and young families, and would like to gain or share skills and experience in a friendly, sociable environment get in touch now! They need help with their 'stay and play' and 'toy borrowing' sessions on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings. You might be asked to clean and check toys as they are returned, to sort donations or answer queries at the desk. Perhaps you'd like to help with craft activities. If you're good at organising fund-raising events such as pamper evenings, or parties, they'd love to hear from you. Previous volunteers have gained valuable experience (and a reference) and gone on to work in schools, social care and for charities. If you'd like more information you can email charltontoylibrary@gmail.com or check the website.



Fun on the street where you live

Sessions continue to be well-attended - particularly popular among children keen to develop their cycling and scootering skills. Parents take responsibility for their own children and have the opportunity to enjoy a cup of tea with neighbours. Each session requires five stewards - two at each end of the road to manage traffic and one to be a general troubleshooter - welcoming new parents and children etc. If you feel you could occasionally offer a couple of hours we'd be delighted to hear from you (phone Linda on 020 8858 7377). Rain or shine, Sundorne Road will be closed to traffic for playing out sessions from around 3.30 on the following dates: 5 and 19 October; 2, 16 and 30 November. The end of sessions is dependent on attendance but they generally finish between 5.00 and 5.30. Do come and join us!

Community Garden plan bears fruit

The Annual General Meeting will be held at Charlton Station on Sunday, 2 October, where you can hear about the group's work over the last year and its plans for a new community orchard in Charlton Park.

A family event is planned for half term in the station garden, on Thursday, 29 October from 10.30 to 12noon with activities for children and their parents such as planting bulbs to take home in your own homemade trough and making vegetable print cards.

The group also plans to plant 1,000 purple crocuses at Fairfield Surgery on 12 November to support a charitable initiative called purple4polio. The campaign seeks to eradicate polio and the colour represents the purple dye used to mark the finger of a child who has been immunised. To help with this planting and for full details of these and other events go to charltoncommunitygardens.org.uk.

**The German Master Baker will be visiting
Wellington Gardens (opposite No.84) in his
mobile shop**



Every Saturday between 08.45—9.10am

Controversy, but skate park goes ahead

The much-debated siting of a skate park in Charlton has been decided. Greenwich council's Planning Board gave the go-ahead at a meeting on 14 September to build a skate park in Charlton Park. The Board voted 10 to one to accept outline planning proposals for the scheme. There was both local opposition and some support from skateboarding fans. Planning chair Mark James, the only councillor against the scheme, rejected it because of its effect on the Charlton Village conservation area.

The new park, to be wrapped around the outdoor gym replaces the one at Royal Arsenal Gardens, Woolwich, on land bought by Berkeley Homes for luxury housing. Objectors and supporters had two minutes each to put their planning-related cases.

Frank Salmon, chair of Friends of Charlton Park, first objector to speak, was worried the Park could lose its Green Flag status if the scheme went through. All objectors stressed they did not oppose skate parks in principle but regarded Charlton Park, with its English Heritage status and Jacobean House, as the wrong location for a 900sqm concrete construction. There was general anger at the council's failure to consult local residents about its location.

Charlton ward's local councillor Gary Parker and Kidbrooke with Hornfair's David Stanley backed the objectors, voicing concerns about the lack of management plans and funds to maintain the facility. Another local councillor was banned from entering the debate on the grounds that he 'lived too close' to the park. Gary Parker said Charlton Lido operator GLL

would be interested in involvement with the skate park if sited in nearby Hornfair Park, with its BMX track. Other objectors were concerned about potential damage to a heritage site, risks to skateboarders and passers-by, noise, light pollution, possible graffiti and anti-social behaviour.

Charlton ward councillor Miranda Williams backed the plan, saying it would be helpful to fight current obesity levels. Fellow RBG cabinet member Jackie Smith said Charlton Park was the only site that fulfilled the council's criteria for public transport access.

Other supporters said the skate park would improve social integration and give skateboarders confidence. One said he was aged 38 and still skateboarding, so it was "not just for teenagers".

Councillors specified that there should be no construction work on Saturdays, to minimise disruption at the weekends. But before work can be started RBG's agent must return to the planning board with more detailed proposals that meet their conditions.

Former councillor Jim Gillman told the meeting: "If council officers look hard enough, they can find a more suitable place." Some skate boarders have said the proposed skate park is too small.

Fresh start for transport campaigners

A campaign group for better transport in Charlton re-launches in October under the new name of Transport for Charlton. It aims to build on the Charlton Rail Users' Group's successes, including: changes to allow 5-car London-bound trains to stop nearer the station entrance; improvements to the station's facilities and environment and getting the 472 bus re-routed via the station to North Greenwich.

The first meeting on Wednesday 12 October starts at 6.30pm at the Liberal Club in Charlton Church Lane is open to everyone. As well as Richard Dean (Train Services Director, Southeastern) there will be representatives from Network Rail, Transport for London (TfL) and all our elected representatives are invited.

A major train timetable change is starting, so we will discuss how that's working, alternative arrangements for getting to/from London termini, provision of meaningful service information, punctuality and reliability. Look out for posters and leaflets in the station and local shops and please send any suggestions or agenda items to: TfCharlton@outlook.com or call/text John Tidy (0797 369 1815) or Stephanie Godbold (07914 264760)

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WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
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Families and friends thronged the fifth annual CCRA flower and produce show at St Richard's Hall in September. As well as produce there were categories for art and a special children's section. Pictured here are Colin Brown and Sarah Roseblade with their children Toby and Megan.

A safer, friendlier Charlton

CCRA exists to make our area safer and friendly – a better place for all of us to live. Neighbourhood Watch and the Community Safety Action Group lead on many aspects of this. Here are some of their current thoughts about how we can all help:

✦ As the warm weather is still lingering don't forget your back property/shed security. A recent incident in Delafield Road where an intruder was 'garden hopping' highlights the need for vigilance in securing the rear of your house. Don't be a target for opportunistic burglars.

✦ Beggars have been asking people for cash and travel cards around the station. We have been advised to refrain from giving to beggars. Although most are harmless, some may be on drugs and therefore unpredictable. If you are intimidated by anyone asking for money, get their description, noting the time of day etc and let the police's Safer Neighbourhood Team know on 020 8721 2734. If you want to help to change lives, a donation to one of the many homeless and support charities who work with those in need will be more beneficial.

✦ There is no such thing as a 'Poo Fairy' - this is the slogan of a national campaign to combat dog fouling. Dog owners who let their dogs foul our streets are politely reminded to clear up after them.

Care about neighbourhood safety? We need more Street Co-ordinators to help with Neighbourhood Watch. Can you spare an hour or so, every two months to come to a Co-ordinator's meeting? Join like-minded people who care about our area and help keep our neighbourhood safe. Volunteer by sending your contact details to mail@ccnwatch.org and we'll get back to you with more details.

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How happy is my valley?

...A view from the terraces

A new season, new faces, a new division. But the script, alas, remains the same. A catalogue of missed opportunities, cheaply conceded goals and, above all, an unflagging inability to find the net add up to that so-familiar story of a gradual slide down the table.

It doesn't get any easier in league one. It's very physical and hard fought and, so far Charlton are struggling to assert themselves despite being one of the bigger clubs in the division.

As I write we are 14th having played eight, won two, drawn four and lost two, giving us ten points. At this point we are two points behind Oxford who are our next opponents.

It's all still doable but we keep failing to do the basic stuff right. New manager Russell Slade has brought together an exciting looking team combining experience with youth. It's taking time for them to bed in but with eight games now under their collective belts, we expect more. Up front they look dangerous going forward but it's the midfield and defence where there are still problems. Away at high-flying Fleetwood recently they were going strong having much of the play but two silly defensive mistakes saw the home team go two up. It took some tough football for Charlton to get back on level terms and we might have nicked it at the end.

Worse came at the Valley the following Saturday when we took on Wimbledon then only one place

above relegation. Within seven minutes talented youngster Adebola Lookman danced his way through a bemused defence and slammed the ball in the bottom left hand corner for a brilliant goal. But Wimbledon never gave up fighting and one goal was never going to be enough and when striker Dominic Poleon nutmegged acting captain Chris Solly and slipped the ball under our keeper it started to look ominous. Sure enough we couldn't keep them out and in the dying minutes Wimbledon sub Tyrone Barnett rose above our defence to hammer home an unstoppable header to give them a deserved result.

Manager Russell Slade was rightly furious, post match. "We need to be a lot tighter if we are going to be successful," he said. "We have to be ruthless and efficient. We've got to improve." Well, they know what they've got to do but can they do it? The plan is in place. In most of the games Charlton dominate play. The stats show they are usually on top for the majority of the 90 minutes. But so many times already this season they have literally taken their eyes off the ball and allowed their opponents in. Hence a string of draws where a win was on the cards.

We have genuine talent in the squad. Lookman is a class act but he'll go soon enough if we don't improve. On transfer deadline day, Charlton turned down a £6 million bid for the youngster by Palace. Ricky Holmes too, is an exciting player who adds great flair to the frontline. So all is not lost. I remain cautiously optimistic. Congrats fished. COYR's!



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It's Quiz Night again!

The next CCRA quiz night is on Saturday 15 October at St. Richard's Hall, in Swallowfield Road. Doors open at 7pm and the quiz starts at 7.30pm. Entrance is £2 for CCRA members and £3 for non-members.

Soft drinks, beer and wine will be available at reasonable prices. Please note that the terms of our licence mean that you cannot bring your own alcohol to this event.

To register or join a team email events@charltonresidents.org or phone Chris on 020 8858 7377 by Wednesday, 12 October – or you can just turn up on the night and we'll do our best to fit you in. Please note – maximum team size is now six members – a change from the previous eight.

I heard it on the Grapevine

Community interest groups

Singing group

There'll be a change to our usual schedule this autumn, as I have taken on a Thursday commitment which means we will now meet fortnightly on Mondays, with an additional gap in October. Remaining dates for the autumn are: 3 and 24 October, 7 and 21 November; 5 and 19 December. The last date may be a Carol Singing night. We are always happy to welcome new members, whatever your level of experience. Although we do give occasional performances, the group is really about singing for our own pleasure, and there's no pressure to attend every session. If you are interested in joining, please contact Chris on 020 8858 7377.

Music Group ('SE7')

The group will begin its regular meetings on Monday, 26 Sept and will continue on the following Mondays – 10 and 31 October; 14 and 28 November and 12 December. We'll also be resuming our regular evenings at Cattleya. We are always interested in gaining new members and would especially like to hear from players of melody instruments – strings, woodwind or brass. Music reading is not essential. If you are interested in joining the group, whatever your level of experience or expertise, please contact Chris on 020 8858 7377.

Knit and Natter

Whether you are a complete beginner or an experienced knitter come along and join the group for cake, tea, knitting and exceptionally interesting nattering. The group specialises in charity knits and regularly donates blankets, 'snuggle bunnies', booties and mitts to QE's neo-natal unit. Remaining dates before Christmas are 25 October, 29 November and 20 December. All take place in St Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road (2.00 – 4.00 pm).

Book group

How about joining us for the Great Booker Prize Challenge? The six books shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize 2016 have been announced, and there's something there for everyone. A historic crime thriller, one about the complexities of human relationships (eh? - Ed) and a 'demanding' meditation on Chinese language and history...

We'll be reading these six books over the next few weeks, ready for the announcement of the winner on

25 October. Care to join us, and see if you can predict the winner? My money's on the crime thriller! Contact Zoe on zoe31well@hotmail.com.

Walking group

CCRA walkers are nothing if not intrepid – crossing south London in July, getting nearly to the end of the Northern Line! But what a delight to follow part of the River Wandle from Merton Abbey Mills (where William Morris and Liberty's had their dye-works), past a city farm and into Morden Hall Park, National Trust property. Here we wandered through marshland and watched trams pass by. We were disappointed to find the Snuff Museum closed – fortunately the café was open.

August's walk also followed a river – the River Cray, starting at Footscray Meadow (once the estate of six generations of the Walsingham family). We then followed the river, though not always visible, through Joyden's Wood and into Hall Place.

September found us north of the Thames in Walthamstow Marshes. It's surprising to find acres of marshland in east London, untouched by developers.

This area was saved from that fate by the presence of a single rare fern – which give it SSSI status – a site of special scientific interest. It was also where the AVRO Lancaster bomber was designed. A peaceful walk along a stretch of the River Lea brought us back to the bustle of Tottenham Hale.

The next walk will be on Sunday 9 October, meeting at Charlton Station by 10am. All walks are open to all – but always at your own risk!

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