

Go-ahead for Silvertown

The controversial Silvertown Tunnel between Greenwich Peninsular and the A1020 near the Royal Victoria Docks, has been given final approval. The new tunnel will be a dual carriageway in both directions, higher than the Blackwall tunnel and able to take larger lorries and buses.

As it passes under the Thames it will roughly follow the line of the cable cars. At the Greenwich end it will remain underground as it passes in front of the O2, emerging somewhere near the old gasometer to join the exit from the Blackwall Tunnel.

Work is due to start next year and it is expected to be open some time in 2023.

There has been a mixed reaction to the news. Transport for London are confident it will reduce traffic congestion. Many see another tunnel attracting even more traffic jams on approach and exit roads. During construction of the link with the Blackwall Tunnel Approach, we can expect long delays.

The Mayor of London says he is 'determined to ensure it does not have a detrimental impact on our environment', but it is not clear how this will be achieved.

The new tunnel will be financed by a toll and that will also mean a toll on the Blackwall Tunnel for the first time in its long history. Small businesses are particularly angry and see it as penalising East London.

Everybody needs good neighbours!

Late at night, neighbours in Sundorne Road spotted a parked car with its boot open displaying expensive therapy goods. Unsure of what to do they contacted CCRA/CCN-Watch who were soon on site but couldn't get the boot to close.

Having failed to get a response from the police they

removed the goods to a safe place and left a note for the driver.

He later claimed the goods saying 'this is a great neighbourhood; it restores your faith in human nature to know there are still honest people around who really look out for each other'.

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Shape of things to come...

The familiar shape becomes ever more obvious as the new Greenwich IKEA store rises from the ground. The skyline changes each week on the building, rumoured to cost £90 million to construct and £30 million to fit out. The opening is now scheduled for early 2019 and is expected to provide about 500 jobs.

It will be IKEA's 22nd store in the UK and maybe its greenest yet, with solar panels, free charging for electric cars and a rooftop pavilion. IKEA publicity claims there are 26 buses each hour passing the store and plenty of cycle racks, but what will it do for car traffic?



Latest on the Riverside plans

Plans for several 10-storey tower blocks on Charlton Riverside have been halted at the eleventh hour. They were to be built near Anchor and Hope Lane, close to Derrick and Atlas Gardens. As shown in the last 'Grapevine', these designs were unattractive and bulky, but despite concerns from residents, including CCRA, Greenwich Council seemed determined to grant approval before the local government elections.

So when the planning meeting went ahead on 17 April, with a controversial report from planning officers recommending approval, CCRA feared the worst. But the meeting decided to defer the decision, pending a site visit. This small victory is testament to the many people who turned up and registered to speak, to the intense lobbying by CCRA, to support from our MP Matthew Pennycook, and to action from the newly formed wider group - Charlton Together.

This group wants the council to commit to its own vision set out in the Charlton Riverside Masterplan, which was arrived at after wide-ranging consultation. The plan includes a mixed usage, medium rise, integrated local community, with affordable housing especially for families. There is a strong feeling that developers should be held to the council's commitments outlined in the masterplan. At present there remains a huge gulf between Rockwell's proposals and the council's vision for the area. All the community groups are still seeking a major redesign which more closely reflects the council's consultation and the results of that undertaken by the developer. Further proposals are expected very soon for the riverside area.

In the longer term CCRA wants the council to improve its planning process, so that the public are truly involved at every stage. The newly established council and new planning board have a great opportunity now to make changes. The next two planning board meetings where this application could be re-considered are scheduled for 20 June and 9 July. If you are concerned about this you can attend the planning board meetings. Check the borough's website for full details.

Local MP Matthew Pennycook told *Grapevine*: "I oppose Rockwell's revised application because their plans fall short of the kind of development proposal needed to ensure that the vision for Charlton Riverside as an exemplary new urban district is realised.

"The overall level of affordable housing, and the dwelling mix within that envelope, are contrary to the policies set out in the Council's Core Strategy and the height, massing and design do not comply with the masterplan vision.

"I welcome the decision of the Council's Planning Board, to defer a decision. I hope the developer uses the time gained to reconsider their approach and that the new Council Cabinet member for Growth and Strategic Development, Cllr Sizwe James, maximises the opportunity to force Rockwell to revise their plans.

This is the first major development within the Charlton Riverside Masterplan area and sets a clear precedent for all following developments. It is critical that we get it right."

Big bold Boris is back on the prowl

By Bob Smith

Meet Boris, the coolest cat in Elliscombe Road. He lives with Rosemary Leeke and John Tidy, but Boris has places to go and people to see so he's not always there. He's got friends up and down the road and he makes regular house calls bestowing his friendship like a gift from royalty. We live close to Boris and first met him six years ago. I walked into the kitchen one morning and the blinds were down, but in a Darth Vader moment, I felt a presence. I raised the blinds and there he was on the windowsill, big and black with dark yellow eyes staring into mine. He wanted in. I opened the door, Boris ruminated then languidly jumped down, sauntered past me and into the house. He walked slowly up the hall, checked out the lounge, found it wanting, so went upstairs, settled on a bed and dozed off. He emerged hours later and strolled off into the afternoon.

This became a routine for a couple of years and then it stopped. Boris had moved on. Rosemary and John understand his nomadic instincts and roll with them. Rosemary said: "One time he moved out and went to live down the road. For three years! We'd walk past this house and see a large black cat stretched out on the sofa and think: that looks like him. But you don't like to ask someone if they've got your cat. And anyway he was free to come home anytime. Then one day there was a knock on the door and there was a man holding Boris. He said: 'I've brought your cat back. I'm moving.' And Boris took up residence again."

He's decamped several times since but always goes home eventually. He came to Charlton from a Celia Ham-



Patio poser: Boris chilling out on our patio last month

mond Cat Rescue sanctuary in Canning Town in 2008 and soon settled into his new territory, making house calls in the hope of a titbit. But Rosemary said: "We've asked everyone who knows Boris not to feed him because we need to keep his weight under control." Sadly, Boris had a run in with a car last November and was left with a badly damaged back leg. Local vets performed a minor miracle and rebuilt his ligaments but then began a protracted rehabilitation and Boris the Roamer was literally caged for weeks while the injuries healed. He should have been confined for four months but Boris wanted out. Reluctantly Rosemary and John freed him a month early. He's recovered well and now he's back to his wandering ways.

He's calling on us again, back on his favourite bed. If we're cooking, Boris does a Cheshire Cat impression, mysteriously materialising near the food. He doesn't vocalise his desires but gets his message across with those limpid yellow eyes and a deep rumbling purr. We've resisted so far and Boris usually gets the message and heads for pastures new. If you see him on his travels give him plenty of fuss – but no food.

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Digging for victory...



All in a row: Gardeners young and old help to transform a neglected patch in Nadine Street

From a fly-tipped, dog-fouled mess, to a spruced up perfect little garden! CCRA volunteers made an amazing transformation in Nadine Street last month as they gave up their time to green and clean our little bit of Charlton.

CCRA were awarded a Ward Budget Grant from the Royal Borough of Greenwich to spruce up 'unloved' patches of land around our area. Last year CCRA acted after there were complaints from residents about the state of the site on the corner of Nadine Street and Gollogly Terrace. On a hot and sunny May Sunday, along with a team of about 15 resident volunteers, CCRA completed Phase 2 of the greening project with a variety of small plants and shrubs.

It was a superb team effort with parents, children and the CCRA committee all joining in, plus a kerbside café

with drinks and snacks after the hard work was done. The day began with 'team talk' and a scrum-start, five second count-down for the volunteers. Adults dug the holes while the children filled their watering cans and helped to water in the plants. To finish off, the volunteers spread bark chipping over the site, using rakes and other tools. It looks amazing, so do pop round to see, you will be sure to be impressed. CCRA would like to thank all the volunteers who helped out, and RBG for the lorry load of bark chippings, which will help to keep the weeds down and seal in the moisture, as the plants root in. We would also like to thank Stephen Dunn of the charity Groundwork, who drew up the horticultural plan. There is still a little more greening to do on the Wellington Mews and Inverine Road sites, so do get in touch with Jodie at chair@charltonresidents.org if you'd like to get involved.

Party in the park

On a perfect summer Sunday earlier this month, 40 CCRA friends and family gathered in Charlton Park to enjoy a communal picnic. Known as The Big Lunch, it is part of a nationwide initiative to unite friends and families in a spirit of neighbourliness. Good food, good companions and good conversations ensured a happy day for everyone.



How happy is my valley?

...A view from the terraces

So near, yet so far. We got tantalisingly close to promotion but missed out in the end. We gate-crashed the play-offs party, squeezing in as late entrants, then left early doors as Shrewsbury took the honours and left us feeling flat.

It was another nearly season full of twists and turns and few could have seen the possibility of a top six place until former player Lee Bowyer took the reins. Up till then Karl Robinson, fed up with ownership problems and lack of funds to boost his depleted team, seemed to be coasting us to our usual mid-table mediocrity. He left, Bowyer stepped in and revived our final games. From the moment he took over, with iconic skipper Johnnie Jackson lending support, Bowyer declared his intention to take us into the championship at the first time of asking. With only 20 minutes of the second play off game to go he still believed we could do it. But it was not to be and we have to regroup and prepare for another tough season in League One.

And still the issue of new ownership needs to be resolved. At the time of writing the head of the Australian consortium taking over the club, Andrew Muir was reported to have headed back home and the £35million pound deal was still on the table. Acting skipper Jason Pearce underlined the urgency when he pointed out that nearly half the current team were loan players who have gone back to their original clubs, leaving a gaping hole in the squad.

"That nucleus is good enough to win promotion," he said "but we need to recruit depth and quality to the squad to be there at the end of the season. We can't do that until

the ownership issue is sorted."

First on the list is a striker. We have fallen short in front of goal on so many occasions this season. We failed to score in either of our play-off matches and that simple fact is why we stay in League One.

Away at Shrewsbury, Charlton dominated and had 16 shots on goal. They failed to put any of them away. Josh Magennis our principal striker battled away during a season beset by injuries and emerged top scorer with just ten goals. He should be looking at double that if we are to make an impact.

It remains to be seen if Bowyer is kept on. Certainly on the current evidence he deserves that chance and with a decent-sized chequebook and wise buying, he could steer us back to glory.

Three cheers to Charlton Ladies who have secured promotion to the FA Women's Championship league after a 2- 1 play-off win against Blackburn. Rovers went ahead with a penalty after five minutes but prolific scorer Kit Graham headed an equaliser after 42 mins and Georgia Griffin nodded in a second in first half stoppage time to clinch the win. COYR's.

New plan to beat rogue traders

CCRA launched a new initiative in April to clamp down on rogue traders, when speakers warned of the dangers of engaging with them. We are now a No Cold Caller – No Rogue Traders Zone, and aim to empower residents to say NO to uninvited and persistent traders. We want everyone to display the sticker enclosed in this issue of Grapevine because the scheme works best when everyone does this as it tells traders that residents know their rights. Look out for street signage, to go up at our Community Day on Saturday, 7 July. For further information contact:

RBG Trading Standards 020 8921 8223 or www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/reliabletrader

Citizens' Advice Consumer Service 03454 04 05 06

Telephone Preference Service 0800 398893 or www.tpsonline.org.uk

Mailing Preference Service 020 7291 3310 or www.mpsonline.org.uk

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I heard it on the Grapevine

Community groups

Knit and natter

People with any level of skills are welcome to come along and join the group. Bring your own project or get involved in one of our charity knits. Not only is there great knitting but excellent nattering. Sessions are: 2pm–4pm - Tuesdays, 26 June, 24 July, 25 Sept, 30 Oct, 27 Nov and 18 Dec. Put the dates into your diary now. All sessions in St Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road. We look forward to welcoming you to the group.

Singing Group

Our group continues to meet on alternate Mondays, and our last session before the summer will be on 25 June. However, we will be back in September for another series of sessions – watch this space for details. We like to sing a wide selection of songs – popular, folk, madrigals and part-songs, standards and more unusual songs, and songs from different cultural traditions. We are always keen to welcome new members, so if you are interested, please contact Chris on 020 8858 7377.

Music Group ('SE7')

After a busy time performing at different events in March and April, we have had a quieter time since Easter, though we did perform twice at Cattleya, in April and June. Apart from that, we have continued our own playing together sessions. The last of these before the summer break is on Monday, 18 June, but we will resume again in September. We are always happy to welcome new players of any instrument. If you are interested in joining us, whatever your level of experience or expertise, please contact Chris on 020 8858 7377.

Charlton Community Gardens

Thanks to our many friends and supporters who came to the Plant Sale in May. We made our biggest total to date, some £380. And for anyone who still has a corner to fill, we will be selling a few vegetable and herb plants at the Park-fest in Charlton Park on Sunday, 24 June from 11am–2pm.

Walking group

We hoped our April walk would see the start of spring - not just for the change to our summer time of meeting (10am) but also to see the bluebells in Bostall Woods. However, a recce beforehand showed there wasn't a single bloom on view, so we went to buy our own flowers from Columbia Market - via a short walk along the Regents Canal and

through Haggerston Park.

May was more adventurous - starting from the Old Kent Road and walking through Burgess Park then on through Kennington Park - recalling the anniversary of the Chartist rally there in April 1848!). A stop for a delicious lunch at the Jamyang Buddhist centre and then two minutes round the corner to the famous Cinema Museum near the Elephant & Castle. Here we were entertained by Morris, an enthusiastic museum volunteer, with a tour, reminiscences and some of its history. The building had been the Walworth Workhouse where Charlie Chaplin, his mother and brother, Sidney had been sent during their own hard times.

Our walks are usually on the second Sunday of each month but, in order to not clash with another CCRA event, the June walk will be at the end of the month and we plan to walk from Leigh on Sea along the coast to South-end. We return to the second Sunday in July - 8th - for a closer to home walk giving us enough time to get back to Charlton for Open Gardens. For more details contact Jill on jillmo@btinternet.com

More stamps please... Thanks to everyone who has dropped stamps into the CCRA envelope attached to the Community Book Case. We recently sent off a bumper bundle to the Royal National Institute for the Blind. You can donate any used stamps but they are particularly keen to have foreign ones.

More books please... We always need more books for the popular read and ride bookcase at Charlton Station - and we need more volunteers for CCRA's management committee. Can you spare time to support and plan CCRA's activities? Please contact chair@charltonresidents.org.

Annual Flower, Produce and Craft Show

They say '7' is an important number - 7 ages of man' - '7 year itch' - SO - it's time to get ready for CCRA's 7th Annual Flower, Produce and Craft Show. We hope to see a bumper number of entries so get planting, get your camera out, start crafting and practise those recipes. Now is the time to start preparing for the Show. This Grapevine contains the 2018 'Schedule of Entries'. Pull it out and keep it safe for Saturday 15 September in St Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road. Good luck with your entries. For more information contact brendataggart49@gmail.com

We're all keen to clean and green!

Each year we set aside a day to work together to make our streets a better place to be. This year our annual community day is on Saturday, 7 July.

If you can spare some time to help make our streets clean and tidy, come along to St Richard's Hall in Sundorne Road around 10am. Small teams will be allocated to a couple of streets – gloves, hi-viz jackets, binbags and litter pickers will be provided.

Everyone who helps gets a delicious free lunch - prepared by Wendy Barrington of Wellington Gardens. Just come back to St Richard's Hall around midday.

After lunch, from about 2pm, there will be two opportunities to explore the neighbourhood and admire the morning's handiwork. In place of the freecycle event we often hold on community day, we're planning a freecycle trail. This will save you a trip to St Richard's.

If you'd like to alert neighbours to the fact that you will have stuff to give away send your address to chair@charltonresidents.org or text Jodie on 07823777152 so she can create a list of sites to visit. Or you can just leave a few items that you no longer need in your front garden with a note stating: "Feel free to take home".

You can include anything you no longer want but don't forget that anything that isn't taken remains your responsibility. We wouldn't want freecycle items to clutter up our newly cleaned streets!

In addition you can take part in a family quiz. There will be a Greening Treasure Trail. Entrants will be invited to follow a trail around our streets and the newly greened or revamped sites at Gollogly, Inverine, Wellington Mews, Wellesley Close, Delafield, and Nadine. Some questions

STOP PRESS

Open Gardens Sunday, 8 July. Your chance to enjoy a neighbour's garden and maybe share yours. In the week before, check social media, local noticeboards and CCRA website for gardens to be opened. If you'd like to open your garden, email events@charltonresidents.org.



Good clean fun: CCRA chair Jodie Coughlan and Katrin Bain help to clean our streets

will be based on notices at each site, but there will also be some general questions about plants and trees in our area. There will be prizes for winning entrants! Full details are at St Richard's Hall on the day.

As usual, CCRA is receiving support from the council for this event. Bags of rubbish will be collected from the clean-up at the end of community day.

Talking of helping ...

Nearer the time, CCRA members will receive details of a special offer available only to paid-up members. Many thanks to all who have renewed their yearly membership; your support is greatly appreciated as our work would not be possible without it. Delafield Road has the greatest number of members, followed by Elliscombe Road. We have been sending out renewal reminders and hope to hear from you soon.

* Everyone living in the CCRA area will have received, with this issue of Grapevine, a sticker which it is hoped will discourage cold callers from knocking on your door. Further details on page 6.

Dates for your diary

Saturday, 7 July

Community Day

From 10am at St Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road

Sunday, 8 July

Open Gardens

For times and addresses see local noticeboards, twitter and facebook

Saturday, 16 September

Flower and produce show

St Richard's Hall

Details of times in next issue

Saturday, 16 September

Hygge evening

Ticketed event, open to members only

Full details in the next issue of Grapevine

Thursday, 4 October

CCRA Annual General Meeting

7.15pm for a prompt start at 7.30pm

St Richard's Hall

Check CCRA's website (charltonresidents.org), Twitter (@ccra_se7) and Facebook (www.facebook.com/centralcharlton) for details of past and future events.



Data Protection and CCRA

CCRA has made changes to how we process and protect the limited personal data we hold on members and formalised this in two new data protection policies: Data Privacy Notice and a Data Protection Policy, so we fall into line with the Data Protection Regulations that changed on 25 May.

These are on our website at www.charltonresidents.org.

We will also be writing to some members who renewed earlier this year on our old membership form to ask them to confirm and 'consent' to the way they want CCRA to communicate with them. Please make sure you respond.

Comments, feedback, queries or material for the next edition of Grapevine should be emailed to: grapevine@charltonresidents.org by Monday, 30 July. Alternatively, phone Joy Ogden on 0208 293 3034 or Bob Smith on 0208 853 2697

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.

Thameslink comes to Charlton

New train timetables were widely introduced at the end of May and Charlton has a brand new service. For much of the day, two trains an hour now go to St Pancras International, (some as far as Luton). Scheduled to take 33 minutes, we will have fast access to most mainline stations to the Midlands, North of England, to Scotland, and of course the Eurostar. For most of the day, eight trains an hour will run: four instead of six to Cannon Street. Perhaps we shall benefit after years of disruption in and around London Bridge Station. Let's hope Thameslink delivers a reliable service: it isn't doing so far!

Labour wins again in our Ward

In local elections last month Labour again won all three Charlton seats. Gary Parker was re-elected, and we have two new councillors, Linda Perks and Gary Dillon, both of whom live in Charlton. They secured between 2,000 and 2,500 votes each. Next was the Green candidate, with 834 votes. The whole council has 42 Labour and nine Conservatives. Danny Thorpe is leader for the next four years and his deputy is David Gardner but six out of ten cabinet members are women. It's a long time since the planning board had a Charlton ward councillor: now we have two.

Membership drive

We are almost one third of the way to our goal of recruiting another 100 members to CCRA in 2018. We hope you will join and support us – just £5 a year. If you need a membership form or have a question about membership in general please contact membership@charltonresidents.org. The more members we have the louder our voice will be and the more events we can offer.

Why join? CCRA is an independent organisation representing residents' interests that brings us together by organising community events. It is membership led and relies on its membership subscription to fund our newsletter, Charlton Grapevine, and the events and groups we support. CCRA members receive: membership card; reduced entry fees at events; Grapevine; exclusive Members' Bulletin and members only events; opportunity to meet neighbours at events and groups.

Our volunteers work hard for the local area by: helping foster community spirit; fund-raising to support local good causes; influencing local policy-making through contact with councillors and our MP; persuading council officers to improve our environment; monitoring planning applications; maintaining vital links with our local safer neighbourhood policing team and close involvement with Charlton Central Neighbourhood Watch.