

CHARLTON GRAPEVINE

VINTAGE 10 ☁ MAY 2010

the newsletter of the Charlton Central Residents Association



“Getting it together”

at the Great Get Together

After the success of last year's Big Clean Up CCRA had been planning a community day on Saturday July 10th. We recently learnt that Greenwich Council is organising a series of 3 events which they are calling Great Get Togethers.



CCRA's open garden event

Summer social events in Charlton

CCRA's 3rd Open Gardens event

Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th June

Liz will be pleased to hear from you (0208 265 5454). And don't forget to visit some other gardens – details in the members' bulletin.

CCRA Members' Barbecue

Sunday 13th June

Numbers limited so get your tickets soon. Full details from Dawn and Andrew (0208 473 3212).

Horn Fayre

Sunday 27th June

Full details from Charlton House (0208 856 3951)

Greenwich Council's Great - Get Together

Saturday 10th July 11am-4pm Charlton House

For further details see [www.greenwich.gov.uk/Greenwich/YourCouncil/HaveYourSay/](http://www.greenwich.gov.uk/Greenwich/YourCouncil/HaveYourSay/GreatGetTogether/)

[GreatGetTogether/](http://www.greenwich.gov.uk/Greenwich/YourCouncil/HaveYourSay/GreatGetTogether/)

CCRA's free ceilidh

Saturday 10th July St. Richard's Hall 7-10pm

One is to be held at Charlton House on our chosen date July 10th. Many local schoolchildren will be involved on the music stage and there will also be children's events and a range of information stalls. CCRA believes that we should support the development of events in this area. So, CCRA has decided to move our daytime events to September 18th but we will still have the free CCRA evening ceilidh on July 10th as planned.

Neighbourhood Watch in CCRA area

Last year CCRA's Residents Survey indicated a great deal of support for setting up a Neighbourhood Watch (NW) in our area. The Law and Order Action Group (one of CCRA's sub groups) has already held a preliminary meeting with CCRA members to explore how a NW might work for us. At the meeting Felix McLymont from the Neighbourhood Watch Association (Greenwich) outlined the benefits of the NW he co-ordinates. The NW signage in their streets has acted as a proven deterrent to burglars. They have also enjoyed reduced insurance premiums.

Their NW has benefitted the community in enhanced community coherence with neighbours looking out for each other and has improved relationships with their Safer Neighbourhood Team.

CCRA are committed through the Law and Order Action Group to improving the safety of our streets and working in harmony with the police (via our Safer Neighbourhood Team) to achieve this. If you have a worry about any aspect of crime in our area then get in touch with Brenda (0208 853 3354) or Annie (0208 305 1484) confidentially or ring the Safer Neighbourhood Team on 0208 284 9849.

The launch of the Neighbourhood Watch is planned for Saturday 10th July! Full details will be coming through your door soon.

Run to the beat

Residents in the CCRA area have been voicing concerns about this marathon event, scheduled this year for Sunday 26th September. Many people feel that local residents already suffer too many road closures and general disruption due to the London Marathon, staged in April, and also the regular football fixtures at the Valley. Others are particularly concerned about the fact that organisers require unnecessarily long periods of time for roads to be closed – far more than the London Marathon itself causes. This leaves many residents effectively stranded on an island surrounded by runners!

CCRA intends to talk to council members and organisers in order to draw these difficulties to their attention. If you have particular concerns that you would like us to raise please contact Linda Pound at 26 Wellington Gardens or email lindapound@hotmail.com.

Charlton Toy Library Facing Closure

Charlton Toy Library, based at Charlton House, is once again facing a serious funding shortfall which could lead to eventual closure. Some funding has been secured but there is still a financial gap.

Could you volunteer or think of some ways to raise funds? For more information or to offer some help you can go to the website (www.charltontoylibrary.co.uk), email charltontoylibrary@hotmail.co.uk or phone 0208 319 0055

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Greenwich NHS Developments in the Borough



Guest speaker Jane Schofield, Chief Executive NHS Greenwich chats to local resident Dawn Miller at CCRA spring social.

CCRA welcomed Jane Schofield, Chief Executive, Greenwich NHS, to the Spring social event at St Richard's Hall in April. Deaths from cancer and cardiovascular disease account for two thirds of deaths in Greenwich and a major challenge is to reduce the high number of smokers. Women can expect to live well into their 80s (although men still have some catching up to do!).

Greenwich NHS receives some £450 million, annually, from the government for healthcare. Almost half is spent on acute and specialist hospital care, followed by GP, dentist, optician and pharmacy services. Key priorities are: to help people to have a healthy lifestyle, to prevent disease where possible and to manage disease when necessary, to increase choice and availability of services in community settings and to achieve the best possible outcomes from local acute hospitals and specialist providers. New services will include a new community hospital (Eltham), two urgent care centres (QEH and Eltham) and the Demelza hospice for children.

CCRA has previously reported that A&E services will continue to be provided at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH). Obstetric, day case surgery and critical care services will also be concentrated at the QEH. Jane also informed us that two new prisons, on the site adjoining Belmarsh prison, are to be built, one for juvenile offenders and the other provided by the private sector. Additional funds will be made available for healthcare in the new prisons.

If you are a smoker and want to stop, support is available. Just phone Freephone 0800 587 5833 or text QUIT to 07790 909 999 or email stopsmoking@greewichpct.nhs.uk

Visit to Olympic Park

Phoenix-like, the Olympic park is emerging newborn from the industrial wasteland of the Lower Lea Valley. Along with a group of CCRA members, I braved foul weather to join an official tour of the site recently. And what a transformation. For years the dreary 2.5 sq. km. site, latticed with a grid of electricity pylons, has been an eyesore for motorists on the elevated section of the A12. But the pylons have disappeared (all electrics are now underground) and in their place sturdy girders, the skeletal beginnings of new stadia have sprung up. All around us was the activity of a gigantic building site, cement lorries heading back and forth, construction site vans and hard-hatted builders everywhere.

Post office progress

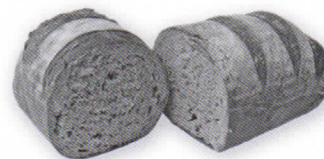
We reported in the last Grapevine about plans to redevelop our Post Office which could trigger a much needed regeneration of the whole area around the station and lower Charlton Church Lane. We had concerns about the design of the building, and about maintaining the post office facility. Lobbying the council led to a site visit in February by our ward Councillors, CCRA and Charlton Society members. On 3rd March the Council's planning committee met again and approved revised proposals which addressed most of our concerns. The building has been redesigned in a number of ways, and the owners are providing an hourly shuttle bus service to Blackheath post office, six days a week, during the period of closure. After the Post Office reopens, the scaffolding will remain in place probably until the end of July.

Work began at the end of April, and we expect will be in full swing as this edition of Grapevine hits the streets. CCRA is really grateful for all those who commented on previous proposals, helped us in lobbying the Council, and also for those who came along to provide support at the planning meetings. It has all had an impact. We have now also established a positive dialogue with the owners, and hope this will lead to other improvements, including an improved interior, and better facilities inside the post office. If members have any particular issues to report as the actual building work gets underway, please send these directly to davidgayther@hotmail.com, so we can respond to these as soon as possible.

We saw all the permanent venues of the Park well under way; the massive Main Stadium, the sleek Velodrome, the Aquatics Centre – with its roof designed to resemble a gliding manta ray – the International Broadcast Centre and main Press Centre, the Olympic Village and the Handball Arena as well as the infrastructure, utilities and transport links in and about the site.

My overwhelming impression was order being made from seeming chaos. It is truly a massive undertaking with the various projects moving ahead individually. Yet there was a definite sense of cohesion. Quite frankly, how anyone - or body of people - could have drawn up such a coordinated plan with such clear objectives for the Olympics, Paralympic Games and for the future use of the site is beyond me.

Our guide assured us that construction was all on schedule which would allow trials to be undertaken before the main event. And what an event! There will be 15,000 athletes competing. A total of 205 nations will take part and, on the busiest day, 800,000 people will use public transport to travel to the Park. In all 7.7 million tickets will be issued. CCRA understands that you can register early interest on the Olympic website – whether that improves one's chances of securing tickets remains to be seen. Having entered the Olympic Park as a sceptic, I am now convinced that the 2012 London Olympic Games will be a resounding success and I hope to be there to cheer on our athletes.



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Charlton councillors re-elected

In a closely fought election in Charlton Ward our previous Labour councillors were re-elected to Greenwich Council. Janet Gillman, Allan MacCarthy and Gary Parker will continue to represent this area for the next four years. Janet and Allan both of whom have lived in Charlton for most of their lives and have both served as Mayor of Greenwich topped the poll; Gary who lives in Eltham came third a long way ahead of the Conservative candidates who came next.

The full results were as shown below:

Janet Gillman	Labour	3137
Allan MacCarthy	Labour	2911
Gary Parker	Labour	2594
James Garry	Conservative	1446
Wait Mclean	Conservative	1211
Richard Shackleton	Conservative	1191
Thom Lyons	Liberal Democrat	1152
Katie Sutton	Liberal Democrat	1121
David Scales	Liberal Democrat	1010
Jack Stride	Green Party	822
Michael Redmond	British National Party	365

The turnout this year was 62.6% and in 2006 was 37%. There can be little doubt this was mainly because it coincided with the general election. Before the election CCRA asked all eleven candidates to respond to a range of questions about our area and local services. Their answers can be seen in full on our website (www.charltonresidents.org.uk <<http://www.charltonresidents.org.uk/>>). We indicated to candidates that if they were successful we might remind them of their replies in future editions of Grapevine. Here are just three interesting extracts from their responses.

On a question about regeneration in Charlton Village and at the bottom of Charlton Church Lane they indicated that they 'are currently pressing for a new Charlton Master Plan which will identify projects, funding and resources'. On secondary schools they said their election manifesto 'gives a commitment to build secondary educational capacity in the North Charlton/Woolwich area and the Council has recently submitted an application for a University Technical College for 14-19 year olds ' which is likely to be in the same area. Asked about regulating the activities of private sector landlords who fail to keep their properties in a decent order they indicated they would seek to 'persuade' them to tidy up but 'if necessary' would

advocate the use of 'all the powers that the Council has to deter and prosecute if necessary'. Our newly re-elected councillors have all supported CCRA events in the past and backed us on some local issues. We hope they will continue to do the same over the next four years.

Greenwich Council stays Labour

Greenwich council has a total of 51 elected members. A large number of them were returned again in the local elections, and the balance of power on the council is even more dominated by Labour. There are now 43 Labour members, 8 Conservatives, and no Liberal Democrats. The Council will decide at its annual meeting at the end of May which members will hold key positions. The budget for this year has already been set, so immediate cuts seem unlikely, but by the autumn financial planning for 2011-2012 will have started and some reductions seem fairly certain.

In answer to a question about which services they would most want to protect from budget cuts the three Charlton councillors mentioned the 'environment -street cleaning ,waste recycling and improving public spaces;,' education facilities and raising attainment; and 'regeneration-the Olympics legacy, investment in parks and improved and integrated public transport'.

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Nick Raynsford still our MP

Although there was about a 5% swing from Labour to Conservative, Nick Raynsford has again been elected as Member of Parliament for Greenwich and Woolwich by a large majority. The Conservative candidate came second and the Liberal Democrat came third.

The full results were as follows.

Nick Raynsford (Lab)	20262
Spencer Drury (Con)	10109
Joseph Lee (Lib Dem)	7498
Lawrence Rustem (BNP)	1151
Andy Hewett (Green)	1054
Edward Adeleye (Ch P)	443
Topo Wresnlwiro (Eng Dem)	339
Onay Kasab (TUSC)	267

Charlton Rail Users Group Gets Underway

At the end of March a well attended local meeting agreed to set up a rail users group and a small steering group was established. Though the focus will be on rail services at Charlton station there was also discussion involving DLR and Jubilee Line services and links with other transport. The main speaker at the meeting was Mike Gibson from Southeastern Trains who has a brief to work with passenger groups and indicated he would welcome a local users group and would continue to attend local meeting and pass on local concerns. He explained that while at the moment Southeastern trains receives a subsidy, within a few years it is expected to do without financial support and make a small profit. Representatives were also present from the Council and London Travel Watch, which is the official watchdog representing the interests of transport users in London. There was discussion under three main headings; service provision and changes, ticket office, platforms and station facilities and integration of transport. Five local people Mark James, David Gardner, Laraine Mitchell, David Thompson and John Tidy volunteered to form a steering group; they include members of both CCRA and the Charlton Society. They will draw up organisation plans to present to a further meeting in September. After that it is intended to meet every six months unless otherwise necessary and to become a formal consultee of Southeastern trains and London Travel Watch.

Yet more disruption on our streets!

Gas main modernisation is to be undertaken in our streets. With effect from April 27th gas contractors have been granted temporary permission to close roads and prohibit parking in Charlton Church Lane, Elliscombe Road and Nadine Street. This so called 'temporary' permission lasts for 18 months which means that at any time up to October 2011 you could be facing considerable traffic disruption. Of course gas main modernisation is important but this disruption follows an extended period of parking problems and traffic jams all around the area as water contractors did their worst. And what's more, Elliscombe Road was resurfaced before the water mains work began there, resurfaced again when the work was completed and will now have to be resurfaced yet again for the third time in three years. What is the Council thinking about? CCRA intends to take this up with local councillors and officers. In the meantime let Grapevine have your views by contacting editor Linda Pound at 26 Wellington Gardens or email lindapound@hotmail.com.

Queries should be addressed to council's Directorate of Regeneration on 0208 921 6340.

Watch Out: Burglars About!

There have been a number of burglaries in the Swallowfield Road area in the past few weeks. In each case the burglars have tried to enter from the back of properties. Please remind as many neighbours as you can about the importance of making sure the back of their properties are firmly secured, especially early evening and over night. If you spot anything suspicious contact the Safer Neighbourhood Team on 0208 284 9849.

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I heard it on the grapevine...

Cakes and ale

The White Swan in Charlton Village is under new management. Vito and Alison Marino are keen to support local events and organisations. A number of innovations are planned. Sunday jazz concerts are planned, from 3-6 – in the garden weather permitting.

We can announce two events for stay at home parents of young children. Alison invites you to the White Swan's Mummy's Monday Morning Club from 9:30am to noon. There will be coffee, cakes and children's activities. If the weather cooperates those attending can enjoy sunning themselves in the secure enclosed garden while the children play in the sandpit. More details from Alison on 07966167580.

Informally, CCRA members Sarah and Kate with babies Toby and Caspar (both aged 2 months) will be meeting every Tuesday morning starting in May for 'Charlton Chariots' - a brisk walking circuit or two around Charlton Park including a session on the 'AdiZone' followed by coffee and cake at The White Swan. They will meet at the back of Charlton House at 10.30 every Tuesday morning starting on 4th May. Join them or alternatively just meet them for cake in the White Swan afterwards! 'Contact Sarah for more details 0208 2442405 or sarah.roseblade@ntlworld.com

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Having eventually passed into the hands of the LCC in the 1920's and subsequently to Greenwich Council, it has over the years deteriorated and been vandalised. The castle was recently brought to the attention of the wider public by the television programme Restoration. Although not the winning property, a trust has now been formed and fundraising begun. The plan is to restore the castle to its former glory, incorporating a cafe and re-opening the viewing platform at the top. Visit your castle, take a wander through Castle Woods, or simply visit the website www.severndroogcastle.org.uk and sponsor a brick for as little as £5 - why not capture your castle?

How happy is my valley?

Not at all, right now. Charlton's dream of an immediate return to the Championship is over after losing a penalty shoot-out against Swindon on Monday 17 May. At the start of the evening there seemed to be a good chance of success. Dean Burton's 65th minute goal in the first leg the previous Friday had ensured that Swindon came to the Valley with only a single goal advantage. An own goal by Swindon's Ferry gave the Addicks a good start, and Mooney's 45th minute goal put them ahead in the match for the first time. At half time, it seemed victory might be in sight. However, it was not to be. A Swindon goal in the second half put the teams level again. Extra time produced no further score so the match had to be decided on penalties. Sadly, after a fine performance throughout the match, it was skipper Nicky Bailey's miss that proved decisive and Swindon won the shoot out 5-4 to go on to Wembley, leaving Charlton fans to ponder on what might have been.

CCRA social events

Book Club

The group's recent reads have included A World Without Bees by Alison Benjamin & Brian McCallum, The Little Stranger by Sarah Waters, The Eyre Affair by Jasper Fforde, Villette by Charlotte Bronte and currently Ian McEwan's Solar. For further details of meetings contact Diana on 0208 293 6431.

Wine appreciation group

The Italian wine tasting held in March proved so popular it was run twice on successive weekends. The evening focused on all those wines that you'd forgotten existed or have earned a poor reputation over time. Wines such as Lambrusco, Soave, Asti Spumanti and Chianti pleasantly surprised and a good time was had by all. In April we celebrated St George's day with "England versus the rest of the world". It was a nail biting finish and English wines lost by only a narrow margin overall, with an English red letting the side down after some very promising results in the whites and sparkling sections.

Forthcoming events include "Off the beaten track" on June 5th and South African wines on July 31st. If you would like to book a place please phone Elizabeth on 020 8305 0872 or email wine@charltonresidents.org. [uk <mailto:wine@charltonresidents.org.uk>](mailto:wine@charltonresidents.org.uk). Places are limited and allocated on a first come first served basis.

Singing group

The singing group goes from strength to strength, and the performance at the CCRA Social showed just how confidently we were able to perform, particularly singing unaccompanied harmonies. Our song repertoire draws on popular and folk music, classical and early music, and traditions from around the world including Africa and South America.

In May we have our first commission! – to make a demo recording of a song for Fylde Rugby Club. Dates for the summer are June 7, 24, July 5, 22. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Chris on 020 8858 7377.

Music group

The music group has got off to a very good start. After three sessions we declared ourselves ready to perform and the audience at the CCRA Social was kind enough to give us a very enthusiastic reception as we played an African piece, two Irish folk tunes and a Latin/Ska piece.

Our line-up includes saxophones, clarinet, flute, guitar, piano/accordion, guitars and bass. We may give further informal performances later in the summer as well as composing an original piece for a project that Rachael is involved in at her college. We will meet fortnightly on Mondays - May 31, June 14, 28, July 12. If you are interested in joining us (and don't worry if you're not able to make all the dates), please contact Chris on 020 8858 7377.

Local History Club

We have met twice and found that we had a fantastic range of interests within the group from knowledge of local industries to the social history of the area. We also identified resources for research purposes and plan some trips to visit them. We aim to produce, in the very long term, a booklet about Charlton and would like to do a local history presentation to CCRA members.

At the meetings we talk about our areas of interest and what we have found out but equally you do not need to do this, just listening is fine. Our next meeting will be on Monday 21st June at 8.00 at Jacqui's. If you would like to come along please call Jacqui on 02088531811.

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Dates for your diary

Open Gardens

Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th June

Full details to be shown in next Members' bulletin

For further information or to add your garden to the list available for visiting please contact Liz on 020 8265 5454

Members' barbecue

Sunday 13th June (please note change of date)

Tickets and full details from Dawn and Andrew 020 8473 3212

CCRA ceilidh

Saturday 10th July St. Richard's Hall 7-10pm

Free CCRA event

Neighbourhood Watch launch to be held on this day – full details to follow

Community Day

Saturday 18th September

Further details to be announced

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 22nd September

St. Richard's Hall at 7.30 pm



CCRA residents will play at the free ceilidh where you can "get it together" on July 10th.

Do you write poetry?

A Grapevine reader has contributed a poem – maybe you have a poem to share.

A History
Sand toft,
Wyndcliffe,
Eastcombe, Westcombe,
Highcombe, Littlecombe.
Lime kiln.

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- Ads containing up to 20 words, contact details & an image/ logo cost £20 for one insertion of £70 for four. Space is limited so get your ad in soon.

Charlton Central Residents Association



Please send ideas and articles for inclusion in our next publication to Linda Pound at 26 Wellington Gardens (lindapound@hotmail.com).

CCRA's website – www.charltonresidents.org.uk

We would like your help and ideas to make the most of it, bringing you the latest up to the minute information from CCRA, our action and interest groups. If you have any thoughts on what would make a good website send us your thoughts and ideas on info@charltonresidents.org.uk. Is it regular updates, important flash headlines, residents' forums, reports?

Dave Picton, Chair Wellington Gdns, 0208 858 4942
Jason Palmer, Vice Chair Elliscombe Road
0208 305 0572

If you would like to have Grapevine, the regular bulletin or updates on CCRA events emailed to you please email info@charltonresidents.org.uk

Membership secretary Elaine Picton Wellington Gardens 0208 858 4942