

Dates for your diary

Sunday, 24 June

Horn Fair at Charlton House

Our local singers will be featuring in the opening event at 12.00

Saturday, 7 July

Members' barbecue

Entrance by ticket only

Contact Elaine on 020 8858 4942

Saturday, 15 September

Open Gardens

Flower and Produce Show

Monday, 24 September

CCRA AGM

7.30 at St Richard's Hall

Swallowfield Road

Classified Ads

Grapevine currently reaches 1000 homes and other outlets in the area. If you would like to advertise goods or services cheaply, effectively and locally, contact Sarah Roseblade on 0208 244 2405 or sarah.roseblade@ntlworld.com. A form can be found on our website. Rates for individuals and small businesses:

- Ads up to 15 words plus contact details cost £10 for one issue or £35 for four issues.
- Ads containing up to 20 words, contact details and an image/logo cost £20 for one insertion or £70 for four.

Therapy can help

Cognitive-behavioural therapy can help with a range of problems. Contact psychologist Jon Gowlland at jon@southlondontherapist.co.uk or 07980 639090. Friendly, confidential, Charlton-based service.

Comments, feedback, queries or material for the next edition of Grapevine should be emailed to:

grapevine@charltonresidents.org by 4 May.

Alternatively, phone Joy Ogden on **0208 293 3034**

or Bob Smith on **0208 853 2697**.



www.charltonresidents.org

Obituary

Nick Adderley

The many colleagues and friends of former Elliscombe Road vet Nick Adderley will be saddened to hear of his death last month in a hospice near his home in Taranaki, New Zealand.

A brief illness took his life just one month short of his 60th birthday. Nick and wife Lyn lived in Elliscombe Road for more than 20 years and ran a successful veterinary clinic in Westcombe Park during that time. Nick's enthusiasm for life was reflected in his extensive range of pursuits and pastimes. He was a stalwart of Westcombe Park Cricket Club, played golf, sang as a tenor for Lewisham Choral Society and supported many local causes. He had played for, and taught, hockey at Burnt Ash Hockey Club, he completed a London Marathon and was a familiar sight out pounding the pavements of Charlton.

Six years ago Nick and Lyn went to live and work in New Zealand and had recently moved to the pretty coastal town of New Plymouth on North Island where Nick quickly became involved in local life. It is a measure of his popularity that more than 180 people attended the funeral and his local choir sang at the service. His wife, Lyn, son Robert and daughter Louise survive him.

Love the NHS campaign

CCRA has been asked to circulate details of this meeting and survey (details below). While not taking any stand on this it seems such an important local question that we would like to bring it to your attention. This is a non-party political campaign, which involves not just the Charlton Labour Party, but also Keep our NHS Public, 38 Degrees, Bexley and Greenwich Trades Council. Anyone to get involved, it is intended to be a community activity.

We Love the NHS campaign is developing a Greenwich Community NHS Charter to help to influence decisions taken by the GP Commissioning Board following the Health and Social Care Act which is changing how the NHS works. To inform this Charter we have created an online survey entitled 'Help shape local healthcare' CCRA members have an opportunity to express their views, too at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NKM6N5D>. The charter will be launched at a public meeting on Monday 18 June at Charlton House, and presented to parliament in the Autumn.

Charlton Central Residents Association

Reading and riding...

It all started last summer with an idea seen in Germany. The idea was simple: a public, open bookcase to give people the chance to swap books, placed in an easily accessible place in Charlton for the community to enjoy.

Thanks to a lot of residents who negotiated, donated the bookcase and books, handed out flyers, spread the word and came to the opening in Charlton Station, the idea is now a reality. Everyone can take a book or bring one. It is free and no registration is required.

Charlton Station's Open Bookcase was officially launched on Friday, 27 April by our local MP, Nick Raynsford. In his opening speech he said it was 'a simple idea to make the lives of local people better'. And the locals have certainly taken to it. So far, after just one month, at least 300 books have changed owner and commuters can regularly be found standing in front of the bookcase to pick something to read for their journey.

South Eastern Rail is very pleased with the bookcase and has ordered a bench for the ticket hall, so very soon you will be able to sit and read while you wait for your train.

The long-term success of the scheme depends on you using it, picking books and adding books. Children's books in particular are in short supply, so if you have any that your child has outgrown, please consider adding them to the bookcase. If you have more books than the bookcase will take you can drop



Nick Raynsford MP launches Open Bookcase at Charlton Station

them off at 84 Wellington Gardens or email books@charltonresidents.org

The Charlton Bookcase is linked to the London Book swap (<http://londonbookswap.wordpress.com>) and in December 2011, the campaign was the winner of the first #ideas4Mayor competition at the London Policy Conference.

...and Olympic training

Charlton Rail Users' Group and local MP Nick Raynsford, are calling on SouthEastern to re-think their proposals for rail service changes during the Olympic Games this summer.

SouthEastern plans to have fewer trains calling at Maze Hill, Westcombe Park, Charlton and Blackheath stations during the Games – from 27 July to 12 August. Charlton station will have six instead of eight trains an hour in each direction during the day, even though it is the designated station for the Gymnastics and Basketball events at the O2 (renamed North Greenwich Arena). Woolwich Dockyard station will close completely in Games-time.

Mr Raynsford, on his website, says he recognises that some changes are needed to accommodate the thousands of Olympics spectators in Greenwich Park and on Woolwich Common, but says the current proposals will drastically disrupt commuters' lives.

Wellington Gardens

CCRA is seeking urgent discussions with the council to ensure the houses at 42-44 are made secure and weatherproof. The council stopped operations because the developer had not met the prior planning conditions before beginning work on site. Some conditions have now been met but the requirement to submit a report on wildlife on the site has not yet been carried out, although the survey has been started. There is a suggestion there might be asbestos in the building but that has not been confirmed. CCRA will keep you posted.

STOP PRESS



See centre pages for entry form and details of CCRA's first Flower, Produce and Craft Show on 15 September in St Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road

CCRA Environment Watch...

from dodgy drains to lost litter bins

It is just over a year since we began our monthly monitoring of the local environment. CCRA volunteers record the conditions in one street, such as the road surface, pavements, drains, lighting, litter, graffiti, dog poo etc. Then reports from each street are turned into one big report in a format agreed with the council and sent to named officers, highlighting those issues most needing attention.

Has it made a difference? We think it has and so do council officers who appreciate the consistency of our submissions and know that if any one issue has not been dealt with after several months, we have the evidence on record.

An early success was getting every single drain thoroughly cleaned out last summer, though one at the top of Nadine Street still needs further attention. This may account for the absence of any serious flooding during the heavy rain in April and early May. And alongside this we have pushed Thames Water into replacing some broken manhole covers and giving some attention to the flow of water through the sewers. Whether this will make a difference in reducing the 'big smell' in a few streets, noticeably Wellington Gardens, it is too early to tell. But we're still on the case and having discovered there should be an annual visit from the 'gully suckers' we expect to see them again in the first week in July. Please keep your car well clear of drains.

We've had mixed success on dealing with cracked or shaky paving stones: some have been reset or replaced but there is still a lot to do. The Council and local people have a shared interest in making sure that new paving stones don't become loose or cracked again within weeks of replacement and we aim to talk to them about the absence of cross-overs, or persistent parking on pavements by heavy vehicles. Another issue on which we have



a shared interest is making sure that overhanging vegetation from gardens does not become a nuisance or safety hazard to pedestrians.

We indicated that the road surface in Priolo Road was the one most in need of attention, so we are pleased that something has been done. However, just

upgrading the section between parked cars may not be enough in the long term. Residents are currently concerned that the street bins which 'disappeared' in the winter are replaced and would like to see some action to clear the explosion of weeds in gutters that followed the wet spring.

Bin collections are pretty reliable, though some crews are better than others at returning bins to their proper location after emptying and some residents still fail to sort rubbish into green, blue or black. Garden rubbish and food scrapings in green; recycling in blue; and the rest (or if in doubt) in the black.

This gives you a flavour of what we focus on in the monitoring. If you want to help or have other suggestions please contact Palvinder on 07984121761 or Dave on 020 88584942

If there are issues you want to report for urgent attention like fly tipping or graffiti the council contacts are 020 8921 4661 or contact-centre@greenwich.gov.uk

Calm down dear

A CCRA committee member and Elliscombe Road resident has had a result with Greenwich council. Peter was concerned about speeding at the Victoria Way end of Elliscombe Road and set up a petition drawing attention to the impact of excessive speeds and asking for a 20mph limit. He also suggested other traffic calming measures could be considered.

The borough's traffic department responded very positively. They have agreed to inspect road markings and to install some SLOW signs on that dangerous corner. They have also agreed to monitor the speed of cars there and evaluate what other measures to make the road safer. Peter wants to thank all those who gave support. And CCRA would like to thank Peter for taking action to make our area safer!

Charlton Central Neighbourhood Watch meets Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust

The Co-ordinators of the Charlton Central Neighbourhood Watch (CCNW) recently met with Trevor Eldridge (Director of Adult Acute Mental Health Services), Dr Anthony Akenzua, (Consultant Psychiatrist and Clinical Director of Adult Acute Mental Health services) and Judy Wolfram (Public Governor for Greenwich) of the Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust following an incident at Charlton Station. During the incident a man was taken by the police to Oxleas for a mental health assessment having exhibited symptoms associated with mental illness.

Oxleas is an NHS Foundation Trust working in Bexley, Bromley and Greenwich. In Greenwich the trust provides both community health services and child and adult mental health and learning disability services. Acute (or in-patient) services are based at Oxleas House on the Queen Elizabeth site. Services for patients who are on recovery programmes are managed from The Heights in Charlton. The meeting was both informative and reassuring regarding personal safety. For instance the CCNWatch learnt that:

- many people at sometime in their life have a mental illness but this is often not enduring;
- people with mental illness are far more likely to be victims of violence than perpetrators;
- Oxleas have a strong duty of care, protecting both those with mental illness and the general public and to this end they work closely with social services and

the police;

- careful risk assessments are completed on every patient before discharge;
- if someone on leave from in-patient services does not return at the agreed time, the police will be involved;
- cases of patients being involved in crime is very rare, however drink or drug use can exacerbate mental illness.

The clear message from Oxleas is that if you feel threatened by someone in the street it is just as likely that they are on drugs or drunk as suffering from mental illness. However, you must ensure you are safe. Follow this advice:

- move away from the place where you feel unsafe;
 - call the police on 999 as soon as it is safe to do so.
- But we can also help support members of our neighbourhood who may be experiencing mental illness. Do you have a neighbour or a member of your family, possibly elderly, who is acting uncharacteristically? You can seek help by contacting: their GP; Oxleas Assessment and Shared Care Team (0208 319 5500); Family Action (0208 310 6570); Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (020 3260 5200); or Age Concern Greenwich (020 8294 0881). Time to Talk are also available to offer advice and support on mental health (020 3260 1100).

Olympic alert - Seen something suspicious?

With the Olympics just around the corner, we all need to be extra security conscious. Have you seen someone taking photographs of CCTV cameras or unusual views of public buildings? Have you concerns about visitors to a particular house? Have you sold goods to someone who looks or acts suspicious?

If you see or hear something that could be terrorist related, trust your instincts and call the confidential ANTI-TERRORIST HOTLINE. Specialist trained officers will take your call. Ring 0800 789 321 Your call could save lives.



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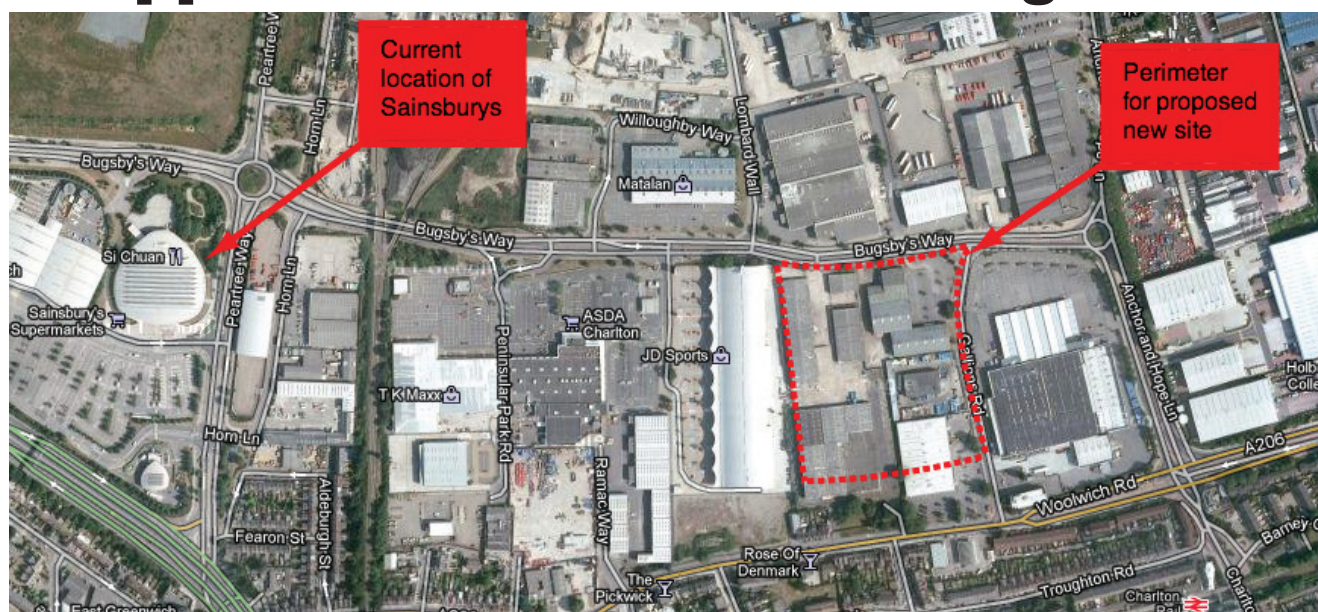
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Shoppers' dream or drivers' nightmare?



The council is considering an application to develop the area surrounding the current Wickes site as a shopping centre built around a new Sainsbury's and a full-scale Marks and Spencer's store. Many of us living in Charlton will undoubtedly welcome this application. New shops, an end to the existing jumble of unsightly buildings and jobs promised for local people. What's not to like?

The major problem with the proposal is traffic. Woolwich Road, as we all know, already has significant problems. The current plan does little to address that – parking places for 700 cars gives an indication of the kind of traffic jams we can expect if no changes are made to the plan that has been submitted. It would help if planners gave greater consideration to access to the shops by public transport or on foot. This could include re-thinking a route from the station, ensuring a safe means of crossing Woolwich Road and of getting between different areas of the whole retail development in that area. It would also involve enhanced bus links and provision for cyclists. The current high levels of noise and air pollution in our area should not be allowed to increase. Protection of any existing trees in that area together with a large-scale tree planting programme would provide a shield from dust, toxins and noise and would look attractive. On any large scale building project, the developer is required to provide significant sums of money (known as Section 106 funding), which should be used for the community, to counter the disadvantages brought about by the work that is happening. The council generally interprets 'community' as being the whole

of Greenwich. CCRA, together with the Charlton Society and Charlton Riverside Action Group, has called on the council to ensure that any Section 106 benefits should be used to enhance Charlton, an area which many residents feel is the forgotten part of the borough.

Charlton Community Gardens

The Charlton Community Gardens edible window box competition is open to all residents of Charlton no matter what age or experience. You can enter even if you only have a windowsill space for a garden. Entries are welcome from groups as well as individuals. We're looking for any sort of container, be it a window box or a pair of old boots, filled with edible plants – herbs, vegetables, salads, fruit, even edible flowers. You can have more than one container and they can be any shape, but they shouldn't have a combined surface area of more than 3,000 sq. cm. in total. For example, one window box 1 m long x 30 cm wide or a container 55 cm x 55 cm square or a round pot 60cm across or an awful lot of old boots!

There are two categories - under and over 16s; and generous prizes from local shops. Closing date is 30 June 2012. For full details and an entry form contact Barbara on 07594 107607 or email [windowboxcompetition@gmail.com](mailto>windowboxcompetition@gmail.com).

The Charlton Community Gardens project is seeking to raise funds to help them achieve their aim of setting up green spaces in Charlton for community use. They will be running a stall at the Horn Fair on Sunday 24 June and at Sherington's school fair on 30 June.



Charlton Central Residents Association

ANNUAL FLOWER, PRODUCE AND CRAFT SHOW

St Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road, SE7

Saturday 15 September 2012

**in partnership with the Blackheath and Greenwich branch of the
Women's Institute**

Entry Forms and 'Hints and Tips for Exhibitors' also available from the CCRA website and from: -

Len Weir (8858 4920)

len.weir@btinternet.com

Jill Austin (8853 4366)

jillmo@btinternet.com

Linda Pound (8858 7377)

lindapound@hotmail.com

CCRA Flower, Produce and Craft Show Entry Form - 2012

Class Number	Class Description	Number of Entries @ £1.00 each <small>(25p under age 13)</small>	Total £

Entry form/s to be returned to one of the following people –

Len Weir, 107 Elliscombe Road, SE7 7PD	(8858 4920)
Linda Pound, 24 Wellington Gardens	(8858 7377)
Jill Austen, 26 Delafield Road	(8853 4366)

Completed entry forms must be received before 5.00pm on 12 September 2012
to be mentioned in the Show Programme – **one form per person entering**

Your Details

Name
Address
Telephone Number
Email Address
Age (Children only)

Rules for Exhibitors –

Entries will only be accepted from people living in the CCRA area or Associate Members.

Exhibits to be staged at St Richard's Hall between 9.00 am and 10.45 am on Saturday 15 September 2012
Please ensure you speak to a steward before leaving your exhibits

Judging will commence promptly at 11 am The Hall will be strictly closed to the public during the judging. The Show will open to the public at 1.45 pm onwards for viewing. Presentation of prizes will be at 2.30 pm.

Only one entry per class per person. Each entry will cost £1 for adults and 25p for young people aged under 13. Classes for Young People will be divided into two bands - **Age under 8** and **Age 8-12**.

Each entrant must complete a separate entry form. Forms are available from, and should be returned to one of the following: -

Len Weir, 107 Elliscombe Road (8858 4920)
Linda Pound, 24 Wellington Gardens (8858 7377)
Jill Austin, 26 Delafield Road (8853 4366)

Entry forms must be returned by Wednesday 12th September at the latest in order to be included in the final schedule. **Late entries can be accepted on the day but the names of those exhibitors will not be featured in the Show Programme.**

Prizes and trophies will be awarded – these prizes will always include a small monetary prize and a certificate and may also include a trophy or other item in individual classes

Schedule of Classes

Flower Section

- 1) Single Hybrid tea rose (any colour) 12" maximum stem
- 2) Vase of three stems of Dahlia (1 bloom/stem)
- 3) Non-flowering pot plant. Max pot size 10" internal diameter (Grown for Foliage)
- 4) Flowering pot plant. Max pot size 10" internal diameter)
- 5) Vase of five scented flowers. Stems max 12" stem

Flower arranging

- 6) An arrangement in a cup and saucer (any size)
- 7) An arrangement in a basket "Summer Garden"
- 8) An exhibit of garden foliage "Leafy Glade" (Max height 50 cm, width 30 cm)

Vegetables and Fruit Section

- 9) Onions (trimmed) (3)
- 10) Tomatoes (3)
- 11) Runner Beans (5)
- 12) French Beans (5)
- 13) Carrots (with foliage tops cut to 4") (3)
- 14) Courgettes (3)
- 15) 5 types of herb in a container (15" maximum overall height including container)
- 16) Chilli plant in a container (any variety)
- 17) Apples - dessert (3)
- 18) Soft Fruit – any type (approx 250g)
- 19) Strangest looking vegetable

Baking Section

- 20) 3 Brown or white bread rolls
- 21) 6 Plain scones
- 22) Victoria sponge sandwich cake
- 23) Lemon Drizzle cake
- 24) Fruit cake/loaf
- 25) 6 Pieces Shortbread
- 26) 3 Decorated cup cakes

Culinary Section (1 lb/454g jar/class)

- 27) Chutney (any type)
- 28) Fruit jam (any type)
- 29) Marmalade (any type)
- 30) Fruit Jelly (any type; ½ pound jar)
- 31) Fruit curd (any type)

Crafts Section

- 32) Original painting or drawing (produced by exhibitor (max A3 size))
- 33) A small item of hand knitted clothing
- 34) Piece of handmade jewellery (no kits)
- 35) Small item of patchwork/appliqué
- 36) Item of cross-stitch (framed or unframed)
- 37) Item of crochet (cotton)
- 38) A photograph of Charlton (max 8 x 6 inches)

Youth Classes

Junior (Age - under 8)

- 38) Drawing or painting of any type of fruit(s) Max size A4
- 39) A4 picture using craft materials/mixed media
- 40) Construction from cardboard boxes/recycled materials (46cm x46 cm)
- 41) Collection of wild and garden flowers in a vase
- 42) Photograph of an animal or bird (max 8 x 6 inches)
- 43) Lego Monster (max size 30 cm x 30 cm)

Senior (Age 9-12)

- 43) Drawing or painting of any type of animal. Max size A4
- 44) A3 picture using spaghetti or other pasta
- 45) Design a poster (on a Conservation theme) Max size A4
- 46) Decorated cup cakes (4)
- 47) Collection of wild and garden flowers in a vase
- 48) Photograph of an animal or bird (max 8 x 6 inches)

Prizes: There will be three levels of success in each class – 1st Prize, 2nd Prize and Highly Commended

Prizes for each class in 2012 are as follows –

Adults and Young People - £1 First, 50p Second (both also with Certificate), Highly Commended - Certificate only

Conditions: All exhibits must be bona-fide productions of the entrants, or personally grown/grown on in their homes/gardens/allotments for a significant period of time, (except in the Flower Arranging classes which are judged solely as decorative exhibits). It is not necessary to grow all exhibits from seed, though entrants may choose to do so. Quality of entries on the day is what is important.

Judges may withhold or modify prizes if they consider the quality or number of exhibits is not sufficient. Exhibits not satisfying the conditions in the Show Rules or “Hints and Tips” may be disqualified.

The decisions of the Judges are final and the instructions of stewards must be obeyed at all times. Any protest should be made to the Chair of the Show Committee before 2:00 p.m. on the day of the Show

All reasonable care will be taken of exhibits, but the organisers cannot accept responsibility for loss or damage. Exhibits must be removed promptly at 4 p.m. but must be left for display purposes up to that time. The Show will not be responsible for exhibits/prizes not collected before 5.30 p.m.

“Hints and Tips for Exhibitors” to aid best exhibition of entries are available and should be referred to in order to ensure adherence to judging criteria and the best chance of winning.

The names of judges will be made available to exhibitors on the day of the Show



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OPEN GARDENS Many thanks to everyone who recently hosted a CCRA Open Garden. The gardens all looked wonderful, due to dedicated hard work and glorious weather. The afternoon was very well attended, and as a bonus, raised £70 for CCRA. Perhaps YOU have now been inspired to host an Open Garden on Saturday, 15 September! Any size, any shape and any design - wild or formal - all will be appreciated and enjoyed. Contact Liz on 020 8265 5454 if you would like to take part.



JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS Residents turned out in force in Elliscombe Road and Inverine Road for lively street parties to celebrate the Jubilee. Delafield Road held a more intimate but equally

successful pavement party. There were lots of cakes, patriotic colours, live music and smiling faces at all three gatherings. Many thanks and congratulations to everyone involved.



I heard it on the grapevine...

How happy is my valley?

“Chris Powell’s Red Army”, roared 26,000 fans at the Valley on May 5 as The Boys came home in style to win 3-2 against Hartlepool and achieve 101 points (along with Fulham) the highest ever tally for League One. It was a fitting end to a fantastic season. One of the best I can remember. We only lost five games out of 46. Now we are promoted champions and ready to take on the likes of Millwall, Crystal Palace, Wolves and Blackburn. And, at last, there is silverware back in the trophy cabinet.

Have we got the team to do it – to not only stay up but also consolidate ourselves and finish mid-table or higher? Yes, I am convinced we have. Early on this season our management declared their intention of doing just that as part of the longer term strategy of getting back to the Premiership asap. There will be changes, no doubt (Charlton veteran Jason Euell played his last football for us on Saturday) and it is tragically ironic that some of the very players who elevated us to the Championship will, in doing so, have signified their own downfall. But I expect to see pretty much all the regular side staying on. With the exception, perhaps of Danny Green who, despite promising much, lost his way as the season progressed.

The frontline needs a bit of shoring up. I like the look of Stuart Beavon, the Wycombe forward who

smacked in a good goal against us a few weeks ago. He kept hope alive for his side for a long time but in the end they were relegated so Beavon may well be looking for greater things and elevation to the Championship with Charlton could be tempting. The only drawback- his contract doesn’t run out til the end of the 2012/13 season. I’d also like to see us bagging a central midfield playmaker. We didn’t have one this year, we played a different style, but when teams threatened us it was often through the middle.

As I wrote in this column last month, my Player of the Year is Chris Solly. He was confirmed in that title a day after the final game, polling more than half of the 7,000 votes. Second was Frenchman Yann Kermorgant and third was skipper Johnnie Jackson. All three have made major contributions to Charlton’s success. Solly is a product of the Charlton Youth Development academy. He also earned the Young Player of the Season Award, an honour chosen by the management team. Many congratulations to them all. I would expect them to be play significant roles next season. And I can’t sign off without three huzzahs to our brilliant manager Chris Powell who has achieved promotion in his first full season as manager. Four years ago he was still playing at the Valley and his quiet, gentleman’s approach to the game has earned him plaudits where ever he has played, and now managed. I confess I had my doubts after a run of 11 games without a win at the end of last season, but Chris bought 19 new players, shuffled his pack and brought together the dream team which has reaped such rich rewards down here in SE Heaven. On May 5, 26,700 people (including 150 blue and white Hartlepool Smurfs) were treated to a festival occasion. We had opera singers (our very own, apparently) bunting, balloons, dj’s, even Curbs, and the Red Devils who parachuted onto the pitch bringing the match ball with them. The only disappointment was missing the post-match celebration party at the Bugle. Not for want of trying. It was rammed to the gills. I reckon half the Valley faithful were in there. Heady days and we should enjoy them. It won’t be an easy ride in the Championship, but I believe we are up to it. Thank you, Charlton, for such a wonderful season. Who knows, we may be singing “We Are The Champions” again next season! COYR’s!

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Dear Sir,

When Bugsby's Way was built it was seen as a way to open up large areas of north Charlton and the riverside to industrial and commercial development. Development took place though it was mostly retail. When ASDA was

planned and subsequently the Peninsular Park shopping centre, the Council insisted that vehicle access was from Bugsby's Way.

The current proposal to build major Sainsbury and M&S stores departs from this principle. Access from Woolwich Road to the car park entrance in Gallions Road is seen as the major way in to the nearly 700 shared spaces. Though lorries servicing Sainsbury's will use Bugsby's Way, M&S delivery vehicles, albeit only four to seven a day, will arrive and exit via Woolwich Road, as will customers for the new hotel opposite the bottom of Victoria Way, when it is built. I'm looking forward to the new stores and like their design and features, such as 60 electric car points and the Explore Learning service. But if the current transport plans are not modified, Woolwich Road from Anchor and Hope Lane to the motorway could host a traffic jam for much of each day, with damaging consequences by way of increased pollution and heavy traffic in our streets. A major traffic rethink is needed based on the original principle of accessing sites from Bugsby's Way.

Dave Picton, Wellington Gardens

Several taxis have taken to waiting for fares at the Victoria Way end of Wellington Gardens opposite our houses. We have no problem with this and indeed the drivers are completely within their legal rights to park there. However, some of them seem to think that they can leave their empty drinks cans, the detritus of their meals etc on the side of the road. We have spoken to them; have written to the taxi companies and the taxi licensing authority to ask that this ceases to happen, unfortunately to little avail. In addition, some of them conduct very loud conversations late at night; very irritating in the summer, when windows are open.

KM, Wellington Gardens

Local Community Groups

CCRA Singing Group

The singing group continues to meet regularly and we have been pleased to welcome a number of new members recently. We have been singing the usual wide range of songs, which includes folk songs, popular songs, medieval chants and madrigals. Recently we performed at the CCRA Spring Social on April 23 and a charity event in the Anchor and Hope on April 28. We followed this with a spot at the CCRA Ceilidh on May 19, and are looking forward to the possibility of other public performances during the summer. Remaining dates for the summer are: June 14, 25; July 9. Sessions start at 7.30 and take place at 26 Wellington Gardens. If you would like to join us, please contact Chris on 020 8858 7377.

CCRA Music Group

Following a successful performance on Sunday, March 11, at Cattleya, our local restaurant, the music group is having a busy summer. We played for the CCRA Social on April 23 and provided the final item for the Spencer Perceval Concert at St Luke's Church on Saturday May 12. We followed this by providing music for the CCRA Ceilidh on Saturday May 19 and making a return visit to Cattleya on Sunday 20th. We are hoping that this will become a regular booking, so watch this space! We meet on alternate Mondays and welcome new members on any instrument, whatever your level of expertise. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Chris on 020 8858 7377. (120 wds)

Summer Parties



With the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the upcoming Olympics, there's more reason than ever to celebrate with a party!

You pick a date, choose from a list of recipes, decide what gadgets you want to get for free or at a discount, invite some friends round and then sit back, relax and let me do the rest.

It really is THAT simple!

Please contact me for more information.

Tamara Davey

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