

CCRA Planning Watch...

the vigilance continues

We continue to keep a close eye on developments in our area, and where appropriate, work with the council to monitor progress and any conditions attached to planning approvals. This is a quick update on where we are.

14 and 22 Wellington Gardens

Both properties, owned by the same person, are being turned into four flats. But they haven't been finished off properly and some agreed conditions have not been implemented. In the autumn and winter a stop order was placed on number 14 until satisfactory plans were provided to complete the work. Work that still needs to be completed: a suitable standing place for two cars, satisfactory arrangements for rubbish disposal from four flats and acceptable landscaping at front and rear. The owner assures us everything will be done by the end of August!

42 and 44 Wellington Gardens

Further along the road, following planning approval in the autumn, preliminary work started on the conversion to eight 2/3-bedroom flats, but stopped



several months ago. There was concern about asbestos in the building but experts gave the all clear. A wildlife survey was completed. We raised issues about safety after agreed demolition of a rear section and holes in the roof left the properties open to the

elements. But again a district surveyor's visit showed it is still structurally sound.

So, for some time there has been absolutely nothing to stop the developers progressing with their plans. However, they cannot be compelled to do so. The planning committee asked the developers to work closely with CCRA, but they have declined to provide us with any information. The council has agreed to contact them in an effort to clarify their intentions.

Land to the rear of 111 and 113 Victoria Way

Planning consultants working for the company wishing to build on the land near the top of Wellington Gardens have contacted CCRA to keep us up to date. Following preliminary discussions with the council's planning department, they have gone away to radically revise their original proposals and have promised to organise a meeting with local residents before submitting new plans.

The council makes no formal response at this preliminary stage, but has provided advice and guidance on how the developer's original proposals relate to established national, London and local planning policies. These policies cover a wide range of issues, but under some of the key headings, the council suggests the original plans are 'out of keeping with', 'contrary to', are 'over-intensive', would 'set an unacceptable precedent' etc. Local people's concerns clearly chime with current planning guidelines.

Charlton residents will have a chance to comment on the new plans in the autumn, both at the promised local consultation and after a formal planning application has been submitted. CCRA will make sure you get details of meetings and the formal consultation timetable.

At last, the sweet smell of success

As reported in July's Grapevine, talks with Thames Water about Wellington Gardens' smelly drains led to an engineer's visit, further investigations and some remedial work. In May 2012, Thames Water reported they had: located and removed several local blockages; replaced two access chambers with sealed cover; checked out the main trunk sewers and confirmed they were fully operational and free-flowing. However, they said the trunk sewers are vented, so odours may

still be noticeable.

If smells persist or worsen, residents should report this to Thames Water's Operations Centre: 0845 9200800.

We discovered that in some cases, sewers run along rear gardens and join up with main pipes in the alleyways behind and beside some houses. So, for those with a rear or side alley, it's worth ensuring it's accessible for possible future drains work.

Just who can we Trust to look after our local hospitals?

Most of you know that the government has put South London Healthcare NHS Trust (SLHT) into administration. The Trust covers Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Woolwich, St Mary's Hospital, Sidcup and Princess Royal Hospital, Orpington.

Unsurprisingly, local residents were alarmed and packed Charlton House library at two meetings in July organised by Keep our NHS Public Greenwich and We Love the NHS Greenwich.

People feared that NHS services might no longer be available as rumours abounded about potential cuts and the possibility of private companies 'cherry picking' the health service's most profitable parts, bringing about a US-style healthcare privatisation through the back door.

Director of London Health Emergency, Dr John Lister blamed expensive Private Finance Initiatives (PFI's) for much of the Trust's £150million debts over the past three years. He said he feared paying off the PFI bill would mean cutting services, and if the Government could bale out banks then why not the NHS?

Local MP Nick Raynsford lambasted the Health Secretary's decision, saying the move to invoke the unsustainable provider's regime was completely unnecessary. He suspected his decision was driven by the Government's wish to send a message about being tough with Trusts in deficit rather than a rational

assessment of what was likely to help the Trust improve its performance.

SLHT sought to reassure patients that staff would continue to provide a first rate service, all scheduled appointments would continue as usual and there would be no impact on care. They added: 'We would like to stress to our patients that discussions with the Department of Health and NHS London centre primarily on financial issues rather than quality. In fact, patient care has improved considerably in the past two years.'

On 16 July 2012 the Trust's Special Administrator (TSA), Matthew Kershaw, began a period of 75 working days to produce and publish a draft report on his recommendations for SLHT. He will then consult for a period of 30 working days concluding on 14 December 2012 before he presents his final report to the Secretary of State by 8 January 2013. The Secretary of State will then make a decision on the TSA's recommendations for services in South East London by 4 February 2013.

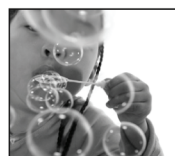
Any questions people have should be addressed to slh.communications@nhs.net

Or write to: Communications Department, South London Healthcare NHS Trust, Trust Headquarters, Queen Mary's Hospital, Frogna Avenue, Sidcup, Kent DA14 6LT

Fun and Olympic Games

Basking in the glow as Charlton returns to normal after playing its part in the 2012 Olympic Games, we can reflect on being at the action's heart.

We should salute our own SE7 hero, Gemma Gibbons, who won silver in the 78kg judo, the first GB judo medal in 12 years, and a personal triumph for Gemma, who'd been ranked 42nd in the world. And the contribution of many Charlton people who were volunteers at various venues. LOCOG finally sorted out parking permits and, contrary to expectations, traffic often seemed lighter than usual. A young boy in Elliscombe Road asked if I'd seen the Olympics and said his nine-year-old brother had been in the Games. "Did you see the Opening Ceremony?" he asked. "Well, my brother bounced on one of them big beds," he said proudly. Solid gold.



CHANGE A CHILD'S LIFE IN 2011 FOSTER WITH GREENWICH

Do you:

- like caring for children
- have a sense of humour
- have a spare room
- want to make a difference

Then we would like to hear from you.

freephone 0800 052 1499
www.greenwich.gov.uk/fostering

 **Greenwich Council**

Promoting equality and quality of life for all

Charlton Central Residents Association Annual General Meeting

Monday 24 September 2012 at 7.30 pm, St Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road

Doors open at 7.00 pm, formal business including election of officers and committee members will begin promptly at 7.30. This will be followed by informal mingling and discussion of issues of local interest.

Agenda

1. Welcome and introduction
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 19 September 2011. These are available on the CCRA website charltonresidents.org or from the secretary on 020 8265 5454
4. Matters arising
5. Report from the Chair of the Association
6. Report from the Vice Chair of the Association
7. Report from the Secretary
8. Report from the Treasurer including statement of accounts and auditor's report
9. Any proposed changes to the constitution. These will require a two thirds majority
5.2 An Annual General meeting will take place each year and not more than 15 months shall elapse between the calling of one Annual General Meeting and the next.
10. Election of officers:
 - i. Chair
 - ii. Vice chair
 - iii. Secretary
 - iv. Treasurer

11. Election of general management committee. Our constitution seeks at least 16 members as well as the four officers, with the aim of securing at least one from each road in the area.

12. Any other resolutions
13. Any other business

Attendance and voting

Everyone in the CCRA area may attend the AGM and the rest of the evening but only paid up members can vote, make nominations or submit resolutions.

Nominations for officers

Nominations must be submitted in writing, proposed and seconded, to the secretary Liz Somerville, 105 Elliscombe Road 020 8265 5454 or secretary@charltonresidents.org by 8.00pm, on Friday 21 September.

Nominations for Committee members

Nominations may be submitted in advance to the secretary in writing or proposed at the meeting.

Resolutions

Any members wishing to submit proposals under items 9 or 12 of the agenda (any proposed changes to the constitution and any other resolutions) must do so in writing to the secretary by Monday 17 September.



conranestates

SALES • LETTINGS • PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Charlton's Leading Estate Agent

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

Yvonne's just the ticket

Question: Why do the five or six hundred commuters who clamber onto trains at Charlton every morning depart in good spirits? Answer? Yvonne Redman, ticket office manager extraordinaire. Since arriving in SE Heaven eight years ago, Yvonne has brought service with a smile and a touch of glamour to our quiet corner of the South East London rail service.

Never less than ready for a Royal Garden party, with her immaculately coiffured hair and piercing blue eyes, Yvonne has earned herself a huge band of admirers. Christmas cards, flowers and other gifts are testament to how her particular brand of hospitality has touched the hearts of hundreds of Charlton travellers.

Polish-born Yvonne is up at the crack of dawn every day and ready to leave her Abbey Wood home to be at Charlton by 5.45 am. The station doesn't open until six but often there are people outside and Yvonne doesn't like to keep her customers waiting.

Why is she so well turned out? 'Because every work day is a special day for me. I love my passengers and my work and it makes me smile. And when you smile, then everyone else smiles too'

She has brightened up her environment with plants and now, with CCRA's book scheme underway, there is a real café feel about the place. Indeed on cold days and when passengers are in any distress, Yvonne is always on hand to provide coffee or a sandwich if need be.

She came to London 12 years ago for Christmas with her uncle and didn't leave for three years! 'That was the longest Christmas ever,' she said with her signature smile. 'Now I've settled here and I don't know if I'll ever go back.'

When she arrived she spoke no English and went to school to learn. In those days she never heard her native tongue. 'Now I hear it all the time. There are so many different people here, I love the diversity. People come through every day and get chatting. They tell me their life stories, their woes and their joys. It's fascinating.'



Sometimes Yvonne leaves her office to tend to the station but she never wears platform heels. 'I always wear high heels even when the station is icy. It's part of my uniform!' But she has lengthened her skirts. 'One day a customer dropped his season ticket on the track and I got down to retrieve it. I think it may have been more of a leg show than was intended so, just in case, I've made my skirts longer now.'

Yvonne's kindness and generosity to travellers is legendary but she does have one wish: 'I'd like my bosses to provide a bench here for older people, pregnant women and anyone who has mobility problems. Sometimes, when it is really cold and wet, people prefer to stay up in the office area,' she said. 'I would like to see them waiting here in the warm. I can always put the kettle on...'

I heard it on the grapevine...

How happy is my valley?

The celebrations are over; the trophy polished and summer draws to a close. Now it's time to put aside the glories of Division One success and concentrate on our first season back in the Championship. There has been some house cleaning with players going and one or two coming in. It's too much to hope that we can repeat last season's results but we should aim to be in the top half of the table ready to consolidate, move on and within a season or two be up for transition to the Premiership.

These are not merely my own hopes, they form the basis of the new management team's aspirations as laid out to an open meeting of Bromley Supporters' Club last season. Can they do it? I believe they can. Chris Powell has learned management quickly in his firm but fair style, which seems to inspire his protégés. I see on line that he is trying new methods and is confident his latest squad can deliver.

But the road to success is never smooth, as the Valley faithful know all too well. By the next time I write we will know much more about how the new season is taking shape. Make no mistake; there are some tough teams out there and we need to be on our mettle if we are to produce the goods. I'm confident we will.

PS: I read disquieting news of hissy fits in the boardroom. Let's hope things are smoothed out on the management side there before they translate to on-pitch angst. COYR's!

Charlton Crimewatch

We are delighted to say that reports of a firearms incident in Delafield Road several weeks ago were inaccurate. Police investigated the incident between a pedestrian and the occupants of a car parked by the Valley cafe. No firearms were involved.

A number of residents contacted CCNWatch about anti-social behaviour by some young people inside and around the shop on the corner of Calydon and Inverine Roads when Jeevan, the popular shop-keeper, was subjected to harassment. The Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) recently made an arrest and one of the young people involved is now serving a Community Service order. We'd like to thank everyone for their concern and support for Jeevan. If you know of anyone involved in harassment contact the SNT confidentially on 0208 721 2734.

A recent burglary in Delafield Road devastated the householder when the thief climbed a drainpipe at the back of the property to enter through a second floor window. The SNT reminds us to secure the windows and doors at the back of our properties, especially overnight.

- If you want to report a non-emergency to the police, ring 101. You can also contact our SNT at 3 Mar House, Springfield Grove, SE7, 0208 721 2734 or 07766 992585, but they have restricted hours.

Having Problems **RENTING?**

We urgently require all types of properties in & around Charlton



NO LET--- NO FEE
Fixed Fees sales
Atkins

Property Management & Lettings

12 Charlton Church lane. London SE7 7AF

Tel.No. 0208 853 3344

www.atkinslettings.co.uk

info@atkinslettings.co.uk



KOOL BEANZ COFFEE LTD
CHARLTON TRAIN STATION, PLATFORM 1

Buy one
LARGE coffee
for the price of
a small



Offer Valid 1/9/12 to 22/9/12,
One offer per customer

Local Community Groups

Singing Group

We rounded off a successful season by inviting the instrumental group to join us for a final session on 23 July, where we created a party atmosphere by singing a number of 'feelgood' songs including I can See Clearly Now, Lean On Me, Montego Bay and Mamma Mia. About 30 people came along and a good time was had by all. We now take a break for the summer before resuming in September. Dates for the autumn are: 10, 27, September; 8, 25 October; 5, 22 November; 3, 20 December. This follows our usual pattern of alternating between Mondays and Thursdays. We are always happy to welcome new members – please contact Chris on 020 8858 7377.

Music Group

The band now calls itself SE7, in recognition of its origins. We have had a busy time recently, and have started playing regularly at Cattleya, our local restaurant on Charlton Church Lane, finishing with a flourish on 22 July by playing to a packed house! Sadly, we are losing Kazia Smith, one of our clarinetists, who is off to work in the Cayman Islands for a year. We hope she has a wonderful time there. However, we have also recruited new members and are looking forward to making more music in the community during the autumn. We meet on alternate Mondays (session dates to be announced soon) 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.

Open Garden programme

15th Sept 2012

1.00 - 2.00 Julia 59 Delafield Road

2.00 - 3.00 Danya 4 Elliscombe Road

3.00 - 4.00 Chris and Linda 26 Wellington Gardens

4.00 - 5.00 Liz and Peter 105 Elliscombe Road

Times and locations may be subject to change but an up to date programme will be available at each of the homes listed above. Details will also be shown on CCRA noticeboards.

Classified advertisement

Cakesbydan

Delicious homemade cupcakes, cakepops and occasion cakes at reasonable prices

Tel 07543 660541 Email cakesbydan@rocketmail.com

Follow me @cakesbydan on Twitter

Community Gardens

As you may have read in the update from Charlton Rail Users' Group, Charlton Community Gardens made a presentation. We hope to get an agreement to use the space by the exit, where there are existing beds, for community use. The plan is for a mix of decorative and edible plants, particularly herbs. Southeastern Railway gave a positive response, which needs following up with Network Rail but 2012 events have slowed the process down.

Meanwhile, Charlton Community Gardens continue apace. We had stalls selling plants at both Horn Fayre and Sherington School Fete. We found more people interested in the idea of community gardens, building on those who had already attended our open events this year. Thanks to CCRA for supporting these.

We have the edible window box competition results coming soon and are planning our official inaugural meeting, where a management group will be elected to replace the shadow steering group. The date is set for the afternoon of Saturday 13 October and the venue is Our Lady of Grace Parish Hall. For more information, email: charltoncommunitygardens@gmail.com

**TUDOR
TOUCH**
EST. 1976

SHUTTERS AND
BLINDS AND MORE

Treat
your
HOME
to a little
pampering
in our
**SUMMER
SALE**

10% OFF

LONDON SHOWROOM
26 The Village
London SE7 8UD
T: 020 8319 4444

www.tudortouch.com
sales@tudortouch.com



Dates for your diary

Saturday 15 September

CCRA Flower Produce and Craft Show
St. Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road
Open Garden event.
See inside for full details.

Monday 24 September

CCRA Annual General Meeting
St. Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road
Doors open 7.00 for 7.30 start. Agenda inside.

Saturday 6 October

Community Day. Details to be included in forthcoming Members' Bulletin

Saturday 13 October

Quiz Night
7.30 at St. Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road
To book please contact Len Weir: 8858 4920

Saturday 8 December

Christmas Social for the whole family
Full details in forthcoming Grapevine

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 07808 194240 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

Rail users are on the right track

Three huzzahs for Charlton Rail Users' Group (CRUG). They managed to persuade South Eastern Trains and Network Rail to reverse a decision to cut trains to Charlton during the Olympics. Not bad considering Charlton was the overground rail link to the Olympics venue at North Greenwich arena.

Since then the Group has helped bring about an improvement in platform staffing and cleaning; the clearing of the overgrowth on the Troughton Road side and getting the canvass canopy cleaned for the first time in 13 years by Network Rail. The lift has been repaired, CCRA has its new excellent bookstand and a seat has been promised inside the booking office. Now there is talk of opening a new entrance on the eastbound side of the station to provide easy access to the proposed site of Sainsbury's and Marks & Spencer's stores; encouraging shoppers to come by train rather than drive.

CRUG helped the Kool Beanz coffee stall owners negotiate to set up, and hopes thirsty CCRA members will patronise the stand. At the June meeting, Judy Wolfram presented ideas for a community garden on land adjacent to the power station plus more planting on station platforms. Other issues raised were the noise level and number of announcements, which cause annoyance to Delafield Road residents. South Eastern promised to cut back warning announcements. There was preliminary discussion on the new franchise due for 2014. It was agreed to get together with other train user groups on the line to promote enhanced rolling stock (with seats) and more Charing Cross services and some across South London to Victoria. The date of the next meeting is 20 November at Charlton Liberal Club, 7 pm.

The Department for Transport is consulting on the franchise at the moment: do give CRUG your views and contact them on any other rail/station issues. (david.l.gardner@hotmail.co.uk) or John Tidy (John@PMcentre.dircon.co.uk) You can register with CRUG to be kept up to date on developments and issues.

A sizzling time

Persistent July deluges held off long enough for 32 CCRA members to enjoy the fourth members' annual summer barbecue. And with the guests' help in catering we had fun and raised a creditable £106 for our Association!

Charlton Central Residents Association

Excitement is growing

Our Flower, Produce and Craft Show has sown the seeds of inspiration among the gardeners and craftsfolk of SE7.

Len Weir, who first mooted the idea, says: 'CCRA residents young and old are interested and we should have a bumper crop of entries.'

Entry forms were distributed in the last Grapevine and are arriving back with the organisers. It's not too late to enter, so fill in those forms, available from the CCRA website or the three members named below.

Blackheath and Greenwich Women's Institute will be the judges and if you need guidance, 'Hints and Tips on Exhibiting and Staging Entries' is available from len.weir@btinternet.com (Len Weir), jillmo@btinternet.com (Jill Austin) and lindapound@hotmail.com (Linda Pound).

The Show will be on 15 September in St Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road. Whether

or not you enter, come along from 1.30 pm onwards to see the exhibits and watch the prizegiving.

The Hall will close in the morning for the judging. You can also view local people's skills and creativity. Refreshments will be available.

You can take your exhibits to the hall from 8.30 to 10.30am, when the hall will close. It will re-open from 1.30 to 4.30pm for viewing the exhibits and for the prizegiving.

For more information and to support this new initiative please contact Len Weir on 8858 4920.

Open sesame!

Our next open gardens day is timed to coincide with the flower and produce show on 15 September. If you would like to open your garden, either for the first time or again, please contact Liz on 020 8265 5454. See page 7 for times and details of gardens to be opened.



Our music maestros perform at the Charlton Horn Fayre

In perfect harmony

The opening ceremony to the 2012 Horn Fayre was once again a fantastic success, thanks to our vibrant local community. The core performers were part of the Musical Beacons project, led by arts company Soundcastle (www.soundcastle.co.uk).

This ran from February to June at St Richard's Hall and was open to anyone, whatever their age or musical experience. They devised and rehearsed music that celebrates our local area, highlighting features such as the Maryon Wilson animal park, the river, and the ghosts of Charlton House!

They collaborated with the wonderful Charlton Singers and the brilliant SE7, our local community band, to open the Horn Fayre with a combination of upbeat drum grooves, haunting melodies and harmonious vocals.

Thank you to everyone who was involved in making this such a special event, watch this space for your chance to join us for Charlton Horn Fayre 2013! Rachael Perrin, Charlton resident and Co-Director of Soundcastle.

The Quiz is back *STOP PRESS*

Responding to popular demand, CCRA will host an EXTRA quiz night on 13 October (7pm for 7.30). Usual excellent value at £2 for CCRA members and £3 for non-members. Refreshments will be available. All proceeds to fund publication of your favourite publication, Grapevine.



CCRA's annual general meeting will be held on Monday, 24 September at St Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road, 7.30 pm. For full details and agenda see page 4.