

## Dates for your diary

**Saturday and Sunday, 11 and 12 May**

Cycling event (see page 5)

**Saturday, 18 May**

Open Gardens (see page 7)

Full schedule available in May

**Sunday, 2 June**

The Big Lunch

CCRA picnic in Charlton Park (see page 2)

**Saturday, 6 July**

CCRA Community Day. (see page 7)

**Saturday, 14 September**

2nd CCRA Flower and Produce Show (see insert)

**Sunday, 15 September**

Open Gardens

**Monday, 7 October**

Annual General Meeting

7.30 St. Richard's Hall

## A growing concern

Following a successful Flower, Produce and Craft Show in 2012, CCRA is pleased to announce another opportunity on 14 September 2013 to showcase the wide range of skills and creativity demonstrated by people living in our area.

Members of the Blackheath and Greenwich Women's Institute will again be the judges. You will find some guidance on what the judges will be looking for in the individual classes, in our booklet, 'Hints and Tips on Exhibiting and Staging Entries', available from early May, together with a list of the various competition classes (see yellow insert). Some classes are reserved for our younger residents (up to 8 and 8-12 years old). There were well over 70 entries in 2012 and we are hoping for an increase on that figure this year, now people know what it's all about, so why not have a go yourself, and get your children involved.

Comments, feedback, queries or material for the next edition of Grapevine, should be emailed to [grapevine@charltonresidents.org](mailto:grapevine@charltonresidents.org) by 7 June. Alternatively phone Linda Pound on 0208 858 7377, Bob Smith on 0208 853 2697 or Joy Ogden on 0208 293 3034.



[www.charltonresidents.org](http://www.charltonresidents.org)

## News in brief

**Heathrow Nightnoise relief trials ended in March.**

There is a consultation on night.noise: [dft.gsi.gov.uk](http://dft.gsi.gov.uk) and may be more in the future, given interest in additional airport capacity. More overhead aircraft could increase air pollution and noise nuisance. If you wish to complain about aircraft noise you can email [noise\\_complaints@baa.com](mailto:noise_complaints@baa.com) or phone 0800 344 844.

**There is a proposal to close Woolwich Fire Station.** Consultation ends on 28 May. For more information and to respond to the consultation go to [www.london-fire.gov.uk/lsp5.asp](http://www.london-fire.gov.uk/lsp5.asp).

## Classified Ads

Grapevine currently reaches 1000 homes in our designated area and beyond. It can also be found in a wide variety of retail outlets in the vicinity. If you would like to advertise goods or services cheaply, effectively and locally, contact Sarah Roseblade on 07779024226 or [sarah.roseblade@ntlworld](mailto:sarah.roseblade@ntlworld). Rates for individuals and small businesses:

- small ads up to 15 words plus contact details cost £10 for one issue or £30 for four issues.
- panel ads containing up to 20 words, contact detail and an image/ logo cost from £30 for one insertion or £100 for four.

**The Big Red Bus Club** Under fives Stay and Play centre located at the cemetery end of Charlton Park behind Charlton School, Charlton Park Road, SE7 8UB. Open every Monday, Thursday and Friday 12.30pm -3pm during term time. Come and find our large outdoor play area with climbing frames, inside games, toys and climbing castle. All welcome and it's free! ([www.bigredbusclub.com](http://www.bigredbusclub.com))

**Charlton Toy Library** Open every Tues, Thurs, Fri 09.30 - 12.30 in term time with singing time 10.30am on Tuesdays. Membership £12 (£6 concessions) for 6 months entitles you to free stay and play as well as access to a wide range of toys, books, games, CDs, DVDs dressing up clothes and baby safety equipment and lots more to hire. Located at Charlton House, Charlton Rd SE7 8RE Tel: 0208 3190055 ([www.charltontoylibrary.co.uk](http://www.charltontoylibrary.co.uk)). The Toy Library is also available to hire for birthday parties for under fives. Email [Simone.charltontoylibraryparties@gmail.com](mailto:Simone.charltontoylibraryparties@gmail.com)

**Dressing Up Tots** New Stay and Play for under 5's. United Reform Church, Bramshot Ave. Weds 10.00-12.00. Dressing up clothes, Bouncy Castle, Under ones' area, free tea/coffee and snacks. Under ones £1.50, over twos £2.50, siblings £1.50 ([www.dressinguptots.co.uk](http://www.dressinguptots.co.uk))

Charlton Central Residents Association

# CHARLTON GRAPEVINE

VINTAGE 24 ☁ MAY 2013

The newsletter of the Charlton Central Residents Association



CCRA members enjoying the Spring social. In the background is the gallery of Photo Competition entries. Inset: CCRA resident Dinah Moro receives first prize for her picture Olympic Rings, from local photographer Fergus Noone

## A picture perfect evening

The weather changed, the sun came out and so did the smiles. It could only be CCRA's Spring Social! Fifty local photographers, singers, musicians, historians and walkers turned out at St Richard's hall for a lively and interesting evening. The theme of the photographic competition was Celebrating 2012 and the wide range of photographs submitted reflected the topic in different ways. There were photographs of festivals, street parties, the Cutty Sark, the Olympics and other related topics. Dinah Moro took first prize with a stunning picture entitled Olympic Rings. Second prize went to Chris Grieve with a photo of the Olympic shooting gallery in Woolwich – and third prize went to Peter Somerville with a picture of the four (allegedly) merry organisers of El-liscombe Road's street party. So high was the standard of entries that the three judges – Fergus Noone of Blackheath studio fame, Carol Kenna who directed

the Charlton Parks Reminiscence Project and our own joint Grapevine editor Bob Smith – decided that four additional photographs should be highly commended. During breaks in activities the stalwarts of CCRA's singing and music groups were on hand to keep everyone entertained.

Louise Downham of Viewfinder came to talk about a new app that has been developed to cover the Thames Trail from the Cutty Sark to O2. The app launches on Friday 7 June at the Made in Greenwich Gallery (324 Creek Road). The app will enable your smartphone to give audio and visual information about the relevant stretch of path. For more information, go to the lottery funded project's website on [viewfinder.org.uk](http://viewfinder.org.uk). CCRA's local walking group is to be the first group of walkers to test out the app on Sunday 9 June. If you'd like to join the Thames Trail Photowalk, contact Palvinder on 07984121761. Louise is keen to receive any photos you may have of that stretch of the river. You can email them to her on [thamestrailgreenwich@viewfinder.org.uk](mailto:thamestrailgreenwich@viewfinder.org.uk). She is also hoping to get funding to complete the app as far as the Thames Barrier so if you have photos of that stretch she'd also be pleased to hear from you. More APP news: Page 3.

### STOP PRESS

It's not too late to join the Charlton Chain Gang on their wobble to West Wickham on Sunday 12 May. CCRA cyclists of all ages are welcome. Email [bikeride@charltonresidents.org](mailto:bikeride@charltonresidents.org) if you like to join in. Full details: Page 5

✿ Open Gardens in Central Charlton, Saturday 18 May. See page 7 for full details.

# Beware of phone fraudsters

The following happened to a Delafield Road resident, so beware!

Someone phones, claiming they are from the Fraud Detection Service, to say your account has been compromised. They say they will not request details over the phone but urge you to ring your bank's Fraud Detection Department immediately and give you a number.

They hang up but do not disconnect from your phone so, ringing the number you are, unknowingly, still connected to the fraudsters. Then they ask for your account information.

If this happens to you DO NOT RING the number they give you. Ring only when you hear the dialing tone. Call your bank directly to check your account.

## **Ten guidelines to prevent scamming:**

1. There are no guaranteed get-rich-schemes. If it sounds too good to be true it probably is.
2. Never decide immediately when propositioned.

Insist on time to get advice.

3. Never hand over money or sign anything until you have checked the company's credentials.
4. Never send money or give account or personal details to anyone you don't know or trust.
5. Log directly on to a website that interests you rather than clicking on email links.
6. Do not rely on glowing testimonials. Find solid independent evidence of a company's success.
7. Always get independent/legal advice if an offer involves money, time and commitment.
8. If you spot a scam, or have been scammed, report it and get help. Contact Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040, online at [actionfraud.police.uk](http://actionfraud.police.uk) or ring 101.
9. Always remember that scammers are cunning. They know how to manipulate you.
10. Be suspicious. If you are unsure about anything, seek independent/legal advice.

# Time to eat, greet and be merry

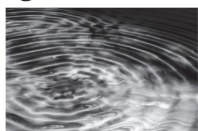
On Sunday, 2 June CCRA plans to join in the Big Lunch – a national event that aims to get as many people as possible across the country to lunch with their neighbours once a year in a simple act of community. We have permission to meet in Charlton Park, and plan to be there from 12 noon for the whole afternoon – weather permitting. Bring a blanket – to sit on or keep warm! Bring a picnic. Bring a gazebo if you have one, to shield you and neighbours from

rain or hot sun. If you play an acoustic instrument bring it and enjoy a jam session along with the jam sandwiches. Come and join in for food, friendship and fun. If you want to read more about previous big lunches check out [www.thebiglunch.com](http://www.thebiglunch.com)



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# By royal APPOINTment

**D**eep in the heartlands of central Charlton a cutting edge company has been hitting the headlines. Fit Creative specialises in brand and communications and this year, the first time that the Royal Borough of Greenwich has introduced Civic Awards, Fit has won the award for Business Innovation.

It is in recognition of the company's creation of a smartphone app - Get Greenwich. Users of the app, which costs just 69p, can get up-to-date information about what's going on in Greenwich, from events to cinema listings and restaurants. Businesses in the borough can list their events and offers on the app for free, encouraging more engagement with residents and tourists.

Company partner and director Jonathan Cook who lives and works out of Elliscombe Road said: "We see this as the best way to help our local economy."

More than 200 local businesses including bars, cafes, restaurants shops and market stalls are listed on the app, which also includes cultural attractions. It's available for iPhones, iPads and iTouch. It's available on the App Store.



Apt award:  
Jonathan Cook

# Slightly foxed? Or very angry?

**F**oxes: lovable urban immigrants? Or mangy intruders, posing a hazard to children and pets? Either way, Charlton has more than its fair share and they continue to amuse or vex us, depending on our viewpoint.

Can we - should we - try to do something collectively? Some members of the CCRA Environment group believe we should first estimate numbers and location. Email [ccrafoxes@gmail.com](mailto:ccrafoxes@gmail.com) to register your interest in recording fox sightings in your garden, including your name and address. If you don't have email ask a neighbour and we will send you a form to record your observations.

Generally pro-fox, is The Fox Project, a Kent-based registered charity that looks at problems and offers practical solutions. Foxes are not classified as 'vermin', so local authorities have no legal obligation to act. The Project says: remove one fox and another will soon take over the territory. Rather than killing it, deterrence will teach it the rules on your property and it is cheaper, more effective and more humane. Most fox 'nuisance' falls into three categories: digging, fouling and noise - all natural fox behaviour. The Project recommends 'Scoop' and 'Get Off My Garden' as effective and safe repellents. Request the Fox Project's information leaflet from: The Lodge, King's Toll Road, Pembury, Kent TN2 4BE, and DIY advice on the Fox Deterrence Helpline on 01892 826 222. We'd like to hear your views. Email [grapevine@charltonresidents.org](mailto:grapevine@charltonresidents.org)

Visit Stefan, the German Master Baker in his mobile shop just outside 84 Wellington Gardens, every Saturday between 8.45 - 9.10 am.

Treat yourself to his delicious breads, cakes and delicatessen.



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# SE Heaven or SE Hell?

How happy are you about living in Charlton, a bustling area in a busy metropolis? Here is what you had to say

In 2012 CCRA conducted a Survey of Residents' Views to find out precisely what you think. We did the same in 2009 and now we have compared the results. In this and forthcoming issues of Grapevine, we will publish our findings.

## Street appearance

In 2009, 53% of residents thought our streets were generally clean and tidy. This had risen to 75% in 2012, suggesting residents see significant improvements.

Over the last three years CCRA has worked hard to improve our environment. We have met, coerced, discussed and argued with the Council over blocked drains, litter and fly tipping. We have appointed Street Monitors who check our streets' cleanliness, to hold the Council to account. We have organised public meetings with Clean Sweep to confront them with residents who pay for their service. These efforts are paying off but we have a long way to go. The survey indicates that 25% of residents still think our streets' appearance is unacceptable. So what needs to be done?

**Dog mess** is still a big problem. While down from 85% in 2009 to 61% in 2012, it remains THE major environmental nuisance. We will continue to press the Council to improve its clean up and enforcement service. If you want dog mess removed from outside your house ring 020 8921 4661. If you know of an owner whose dog is fouling report them anonymously on the Dog Fouling Form available on the RBG website.

**Littering** is the second major concern, particularly in roads next to food outlets. It has slightly improved from 48% in 2009 to 42% in 2012. The last two CCRA Community Days focused on litter, with volunteers cleaning up 'hot spots' such as behind the Valley Cafe. We will continue to monitor and take action to reduce litter. You reported six other particular issues and CCRA has already started to bring these to the Council's attention (with % of residents who think it a problem): **untidy front gardens** (39%); **broken pavements** (27%); **smelly drains** (26%); **inadequate lighting** (23%); **poor road surfaces** (22%); and **fly tipping** (21%).

CCRA was set up to improve Charlton for all who live and work here. Our mission is to continue to improve the our streets' appearance.

In 2009 95% of residents thought the 'green bin' collection was satisfactory but there were still concerns about overall street cleanliness. In 2010, CCRA held a residents' meeting with Clean Sweep to address our concerns.

Since then CCRA has appointed Street Monitors who regularly check our streets for litter, broken pavements, smelly drains etc. In this way we liaise with the Council to get better value for our money and ensure they meet their statutory obligations.

Our 2012 survey showed these efforts are paying off with 89% of residents now fully satisfied with the Council's service. But we can still do better. For instance, a third of residents reported concerns about bins left on pavements, a moderate improvement from nearly a half in 2009.

It is not Clean Sweep's job to replace bins on properties after collection so, if your neighbour is ill, away or unable to move their bins – be a good neighbour and pop them back.

Three other areas of concern: items left on pavements (30%), cleaning-up after match days (15%) and inadequate street cleaning (13%). While all have improved since 2009, CCRA continues working to enhance our streets. Are you at home during the day? Regularly walk the dog? Do you have 20 minutes to spare once a month? Why not become a Street Monitor. We'd like more people out there so please volunteer by contacting Palvinder Banwatt at our Environment Group on 07984 121 761.



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email: [info@walker-the-dog-walker.co.uk](mailto:info@walker-the-dog-walker.co.uk) or call: 07877 448590



Hard hats were in order on London Marathon Day when 20 members of CCRA's walking group set out in spring sunshine on a trek of their own to the Victorian pumping station at Crossness by the Thames at Erith Marshes. Staffed by volunteers, the museum opens just four times a year to show off its massive rotative beam engines, the largest surviving examples in the world. Our visitors were amazed at the restoration work achieved and by the sheer genius of the Victorian engineers who originally developed the engines. The walk was organised by Palvinder Banwatt, who is pictured far right.



## Join the Charlton chain gang

Cycling reduces traffic congestion, cleans the air and will return us all to lithe fitness and well being. That may well be true, but it's not why we're off on the CCRA bike ride on Sunday, 12 May. We're going because it's fun. Because the sense of liberation you felt when you first rode a bike is still there every time you set off on a journey with the wind in your hair and the scents of spring in your nostrils. We're not going far, and we're going the pretty way. Come with us. If your bike needs oil, air, love or care, come and see Doctor Bike on the morning of Saturday 11th May at 7 Elliscombe Road. If you're coming, if you're curious, or if you're keen but don't have a bike, email [bikeride@charltonresidents.org](mailto:bikeride@charltonresidents.org)



### SEWING TIME

7 Delacourt Road, Blackheath, SE3 8XA

Call: 02084655520/07403583001

[info@sewingtime.co.uk](mailto:info@sewingtime.co.uk)

[www.sewingtime.co.uk](http://www.sewingtime.co.uk)

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## Running into trouble

The controversial Run To The Beat half marathon takes place this year on 8 September and will, again, disrupt Charlton. Consultations are ongoing with TFL and Greenwich Council to minimise traffic congestion and, with this in mind, the plan this year is to start and finish the event in Greenwich Park.

Organisers believe this will reduce problems and get streets re-opened more quickly. The race is the biggest half marathon in and around London, attracting 19,000 runners. It's a colourful and lively event but it has attracted local opposition because of its impact on local streets, bus and hospital services. An outline of the route has been circulated locally and full details of road restrictions are due to be distributed by the organisers soon.

# *I heard it on the grapevine...*

## How does our garden grow?

Have you noticed the changes to the flowerbeds as you leave Charlton Station? Working parties from Charlton Community Gardens group have been clearing the weeds and litter and overgrown plants from the bed next to the canopy. The plan is to create a “demonstration garden” with financial help from the Royal Horticultural Society, showing how edible flowers, fruit and vegetables can be grown in small spaces.

Would you like to learn more about growing? Would you like to be involved in making a community asset of the station? The next working party is Monday, 13 May 9.30 a.m., and planting of the raised beds is on Thursday 23 May at 7pm. All volunteers are welcome. After the end of May we will need people to water the plants. Under the canopy there will be a special Sow a seed/Paint a pot event for young children on Saturday, 11 May from 11am – 1pm run by Greenwich Community College.

We have seeds to give away. Ideally, when your seeds germinate and you grow them on, you'll donate a few seedlings back to CCG projects. To arrange to choose your free seeds (courtesy of RHS Britain in Bloom) drop an email to [charltoncommunitygardens@gmail.com](mailto:charltoncommunitygardens@gmail.com).

And we will say thank you for all the neighbourly oversight that keeps the station garden free from vandalism and litter.

## How happy is my valley?

It's knife-edge stuff down at the Valley. A late surge with five wins and two draws in the last eight matches has seen Charlton rise to the dizzy heights of ninth with an outside chance of the play-offs. And what a way to do it with a six-nil thrashing of Barnsley away from home – our best away result ever. Then away to Cardiff where we held the division leaders to a nil-nil draw. And yes, we've avoided relegation. With 61 points and two to play, we can't go down. But we can go up! A TV pundit said last week that the Championship was the toughest place to play football in Europe. He was right. Last year 43 points was enough to secure safety. This year Bristol City reached 40 and still ended up relegated. No one else is going down without a fight.

On 20 April, we scraped over the line at the Valley in a gritty game beating Wolves 2 – 1 with an 89th minute decider courtesy of Jonathan Obika. Now it's Middlesbrough and Bristol to play. Two wins and the play-offs beckon. But a lot has to happen above us. Other teams must lose their last two games. And looking at the current squad and with no evidence of oligarchs on the horizon I wonder whether promotion might not be a poisoned chalice.

But it's worth the try, and I had a trainer's tip last week from a Valley insider that we look good for a top six finish. Congrats fished. Unfortunately we surrendered local bragging rights this season, losing to both Palace and Millwall at the Valley. That cuts badly. But we bounced back with a good win against Bolton on March 30 coming back to win 3 – 2 from a two-goal deficit. Once again it was iconic captain Johnny Jackson who led the charge, spearing in the first and inspiring the team on to greater things in the second half. BWP is now playing for Brentford and finally getting on the score sheet. Young local hopeful Callum Harriott is a good prospect and it is his dazzling runs at the opposition that have done much to reignite the Charlton spark. Spurs loanee Obika scored a crucial last minute winner at home to Leeds and we look forward to the last two games with optimism. At the start of the season I predicted we would finish tenth, so The Boys are currently exceeding my expectations. Gloomy national newspaper pundits placed them 14th. By the time I next write all will be revealed. COYR's! PS: My Player of the Season? So Solid Solly.



### **The Old Cottage Coffee Shop**

Charlton Park

Winter time opening hours

Mon and Tues 10:00-2:00 (school term)

Wed-Sun 10:00-4:00

**All day breakfast now available**



# Community interest groups

## Book group

The CCRA Book Group has just finished *Flight Behaviour* and *Prodigal Summer* by Barbara Kingsolver, a campaigning writer who looks at issues close to her heart, especially ecological matters.



These two books looked in exquisite detail at the attractions and connections in nature, both in harmony and when they go wrong. Next, we're determined to challenge ourselves and our thinking.

On 14 May we'll discuss Mo Yan's 'Red Sorghum', that uses a series of flashbacks to examine the battle between the Chinese and their Japanese invaders in the 1930s.

And then we've chosen to look at graphic novels, a new genre for us. On 10 June we'll focus on 'Safe Area Gorazde' by Joe Sacco – a documentary comic of the Bosnian war's last days. But as this is a new style for us, we have encouraged members to read any graphic novel and bring it to the Group.

We'd really like new members, so if you've experience of graphic novels, do come along and share it. We'll probably take a short break over the summer for sun-lounger reading, but will keep an eye on the Booker Prize announcements, ready for our September meeting. Details of where/when to meet from zoe31well@hotmail.com.

## CCRA singing group

The singing group has been well attended throughout the early part of the year, and we hope to continue this through to the summer. Our regular sessions take place alternately on Mondays and Thursdays. Dates until the summer are: 18 & 29 April; 16 & 27 May; 13 & 24; 11 & 22 July.

We are always happy to welcome new members, whatever your level of experience – the group is about singing for pleasure. If you are interested in joining, please contact Chris on 020 8858 7377.

## CCRA music group ('SE7')

The band has increased in number recently, thanks mainly to an influx of new guitarists. Our regular ses-

sions will start again on 15 April and we will be meeting fortnightly thereafter – 6 & 20 May; 3 & 17 June; 1 & 15 July. We are back at Cattleya on 21 April and hope to perform there about once a month - look out for details! If you are interested in joining the group, please contact Chris on 020 8858 7377.

## Open Gardens

Our very popular Open Garden spring event is scheduled for Saturday 18 May. If you'd like to open your garden to other CCRA members just call Linda on 020 8858 7377 or Liz on 020 8265 5454. It doesn't matter whether your garden is large or small, sunny or shady, tidy or carefree, formal or informal, we'd love to include you.

Visitors are asked to consider giving a small donation of perhaps 50p for every garden visited. Any money collected will be included in CCRA funds to help pay for Grapevine and publicity materials, and to buy plants for our greening programme. Full details of the programme of visits for the day will be circulated to members.



## Charlton Rail Users' Group

Public Meeting: 7pm, 13 May, Charlton Liberal Club, Charlton Church Lane. Contact john.tidy0@gmail.com for details

Come and have your say on Network Rail's proposals on local services, under which Charing Cross trains one year and Cannon Street the next will run through without stopping at London Bridge; Greenwich line services will only go to Cannon Street, and Blackheath/Lewisham ones only to Charing Cross. Representatives from SouthEastern Trains, Network Rail, TfL and the Greenwich Line Users' Group will be at the meeting.

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**The winner of 'Name the coffee shop' competition was Annie Galloway, with her entry Brew & Choo.**

**The café, next to the Post Office, is now open Mondays to Saturdays from 07:00 - 17:00, and on Sundays from 09:00 - 16:00. CCRA members get 10% off when they show their CCRA membership cards, until further notice.**