

Dates for your diary

Saturday 13 September

3rd CCRA Flower and Produce Show
St Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road
Full details on page 1

Sunday 14 September

Open Gardens
See page 8

Monday 15 September

Knit and natter
7.30 at 49 Delafield Road
See page 2

Tuesday 16 September

Knit and natter + tea and cake
2-4 pm at St Richard's Hall
See page 2

Monday 6 October

CCRA Annual General Meeting
7.30 at St Richard's Hall
See page 4

Saturday 18 October

Quiz Night

Everything in the Open Gardens is lovely

If you're a CCRA member you can take advantage of our latest Open Gardens programme. Selected gardens will be open during the afternoon of Sunday, 14 September. Final details of the gardens open for viewing will be available on the afternoon of the Flower & Produce Show. Times and addresses will also be posted on the website (charltonresidents.org) and on our noticeboards in Delafield Road, Wellington Gardens, Totty's and Conran's.

If you'd like to open your garden, phone Liz on 020 8265 5454 – it doesn't have to be picture perfect. One of the most enjoyable features of this popular event is that every garden is different – some are developing, some are well established, some have a natural look and some are even neat and tidy. All provide enjoyment and interest and deserve to be shared with local friends. So please think about being a host. It's only for one hour. Come and see what lies behind those side gates – you might be surprised

Greenwich foodbank is urgently requesting the following items:

Fruit Juice; Tinned Sponge Pudding; Tinned Rice Pudding

Tinned Fish; Tinned Carrots; Instant Potato; Tinned Peas; Tinned or Packet Custard.

If you are able to contribute any of these items you can take them to St Luke's Church in the village on Sunday mornings or drop them in to Linda at 26 Wellington Gardens.

Get Sheducated

Police warn local householders that theft from sheds is increasing. Padlocks are not enough, as flimsy or rusty hinges and rotten doors will not deter thieves. Thieves are looking for power tools, lawn mowers and bikes as these are easy to sell on so examine your shed. Does it have: a good quality lock with 5 pins? bolted-through locks into a reinforced door? a grille on good fitting lockable windows? Is it: alarmed? protected with movement sensor security lights?

Protecting your shed can also protect your house, as garden tools are often used in house burglaries.

Classified Ads

Grapevine reaches more than 1,000 homes and retail outlets, in our designated area and beyond. To advertise, contact Sarah Roseblade on 0777 902 4226 or sarah.roseblade@ntlworld.com

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.

Dance

Ballroom & Latin dance classes, adults & children.
Afternoon Tea Dance. Mondays, Horn Park, Lee.
Contact Kerry: 07711 255932

FitSteps

FitSteps, fitness that's Strictly fun! Ballroom and Latin American dance based fitness class. Any age and ability welcome, no partner needed, Tuesday mornings, Mycenae House. For more info contact: Kerry Tite, 07711 255932, kerrytite@yahoo.co.uk





Say it with flowers... or cakes and jam, or...

Many villages across the country are currently in the throes of their Flower & Produce shows, large and small. Our CCRA 'village' is no exception and as we write, final preparations are being put in place for our popular version of this community event. On Saturday 13 September, the doors of St Richard's Hall in Swallowfield Road will be open from 8.00am onwards to receive entries in a range of classes from those living in the CCRA area – if you are reading this, you are eligible to enter the 3rd CCRA Flower, Produce and Craft Show! Doors will close at 10.45am for judging.

The schedule of classes should have been delivered to you earlier in July, but is also available on the CCRA website (www.charltonresidents.org) along with hints and tips about what the judges will look for.

STOP PRESS

Don't forget that our September Open Gardens event will be on Sunday, 14 September. Full details of times and gardens will be available at the Flower and Produce Show. See page 8 for more detail.

As previously, those judges will be from the Blackheath & Greenwich Women's Institute, so the judging process (always carried out with a gentle hand) will be both informed and independent. Only £1 per entry for adults, 25p for children aged 12 and under.

This is designed to be a fun event so why not give it a go? There are classes in the areas of growing and arranging flowers, fruit and vegetables; also baking, jam making and preserving, as well as a range of craft skills, including photography.

In addition, there are eight classes especially orientated towards the interests of our younger residents. For full details of entries and for hints and tips to support your entry check our website. Alternatively phone Brenda on 020 8853 3354 or Linda on 020 8858 7377.

Come along in the afternoon from 1.45pm onwards (prizes presented at 2.15pm) to see how you have done or purely to see what your fellow residents have come up with. We would love to see you in either capacity. If you come early, you may have the chance to taste some of the edible entries!



Coming soon! A special page for advertising lost or found pets on our website (charltonresidents.org).

A close knit community

C CRA's partnership with Age UK Bromley and Greenwich, has led to an invitation to help in their Big Knit Campaign. They ask us to lend a hand (or two) in achieving their aim of producing 6,000 little bobble hats. These will adorn Innocent Drinks bottles which will go on sale later this year in various shops across the UK including: Sainsbury's, WH Smith, Waitrose, Tesco, Asda, Boots and Ocado. For every hat sold, Age UK Bromley and Greenwich will receive 25p. Last year they received £1,265.25p which was used to ensure that elderly people in the area stayed warm.

CCRA is happy to be involved and has decided to hold two 'knit and natter' events to get the ball rolling. On Tuesday, 16 September we will have a session, including tea and cake, for volunteers from 2.00 to 4.00 pm at St Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road, for anyone who'd like to join in.

Even if you can't knit but would like to learn, someone will be able to help you. For those working or otherwise engaged during the day, there will also be a 'knit and natter' session on Monday, 15

September at 7.30 pm at 49 Delafield Road. No need to bring wool but if you have any knitting needles (size 10 or 3.25mm-4mm) please bring them along. Patterns will be provided but so long as the size is right you can be as creative as you like. Last year's haul included octopi, a donkey wearing a straw hat, The Tardis, ghosts, Winnie the Pooh & Friends, Santa and witches' hats!

If you're not able to come but would still like to support Age UK there are patterns for different levels of expertise on: <http://www.ageuk.org.uk/bromley-andgreenwich/news--events/get-knitting-for-the-big-knit-2014>. Or phone Linda on 020 8858 7377 who can provide a paper copy of the patterns.

If you decide to go it alone you can send any hats you make to Age UK, Bromley and Greenwich Community House, South Street, Bromley BR1 1RH, marking the envelope CCRA. Every single one helps! The deadline for contributions is Friday, 31 October. You can also drop your hats into Brenda at 49 Delafield Road or Linda at 26 Wellington Gardens by Monday, 27 October.



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In praise of bridges

by Dave Picton

Once again we're being consulted about river crossings: this time from Woolwich Ferry downstream. There will be another consultation on the Silvertown Tunnel later in the autumn.

For the first time there is a new proposal for a bridge at Belvedere, linking the A2016 on the south side to the A13 on the north. The bridge at Gallions Reach, for which all the land needed is in place, is still an option. New ferries at Woolwich or Gallions Reach complete the proposals, even though at best they carry only a quarter as many vehicles as bridges, are about seven times as expensive to run and will be closed at night.

Money overshadows the whole river crossing consultation. Under the heading 'Managing demand for the new crossings' we have the unchallenged assumption 'vehicles would be charged to use the new crossing'. The word 'tolls' does not appear anywhere. The arguments that this would encourage the use of public transport or help to ensure efficient journeys could be applied to all the bridges in central and west London but no one would dare to consult on that idea. Those bridges stem from a time when there seems to have been more respect for the public realm, where crossings were about people living and working in communities on both sides of the river, and there was pride in what was being built.

Part of what should be under consideration is the legacy of today's new river crossings for East London in one or two hundred years' time. Now we have the

technology to build longer bridges, they can surely benefit our quality of life in a way that transport tunnels never can. Tunnels have their place: without the Tube network London would seize up, while Crossrail will shorten many journeys and may well help to reduce road traffic. But road tunnels in particular are claustrophobic and polluted: to be endured and from which you are always pleased to emerge. In contrast bridges are for everyone: they are people friendly. We can walk across, we can cycle, take the whole family and the dog. They can be used by all kinds of vehicles, including public transport, 365 days a year, 24 hours a day. They can be magnificent structures, places to visit and gaze upon. They can lift the spirit and stir the imagination. But can you feel exhilarated going through the Blackwall Tunnel?

If, with public money, we built both the bridges at Gallions Reach and Belvedere, which could be done in the next ten years, I think our generation would be doing the right thing for future Londoners, as well as improving the current position. At the same time we should take the toll off the Dartford crossing, the 'taboo option' not to be discussed.

What about the money? Well it would be OK if it was all owned by the state of Qatar; it's only when our own government has ownership that there's a problem. I wonder what they'll think of that argument in two hundred years' time?

For details of the current consultation see www.tfl.gov.uk/new-river-crossings or phone 0343 222 1234

It's that time of year again... CCRA's AGM

On Monday 6 October, CCRA will be holding its seventh Annual General Meeting. In addition to the formal business we are planning a topical focus on World War I. Carolyn Ayers, the Project Manager for the WW1 Commemoration at the Heritage Centre will bring stories and displays about local servicemen who died during the war and tell some of their stories. As previously reported in Grapevine, there has also been research into some of those who went to the local school and later fought and died in the First World

Charlton Central Residents' Association Annual General Meeting

Monday 6 October 2014 at 7.30 pm
St Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road

Agenda

1. Welcome and introduction
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 7 October 2013. These are available on the CCRA website (charltonresidents.org). A few copies will be available at the meeting.
4. Matters arising
5. Report from the co- chairs of the Association
6. Report from the Secretary
7. Report from the Treasurer including statement of accounts and auditor's report
8. Any proposed changes to the constitution. These will require a two thirds majority and must have been submitted in writing to the secretary by Monday 29 September.

War. The theme will be reflected in music performed by our band, SE7, and by our own local singers. Only paid up full members can vote, make nominations or submit resolutions at the AGM. Associate members are not eligible to vote. However, the whole evening is open to everyone, so do come along. Full details and agenda shown below. Formal business will begin promptly at 7.30pm (doors open at 7.15pm). Throughout the evening tea, coffee and soft drinks will be available.

9. Election of officers:

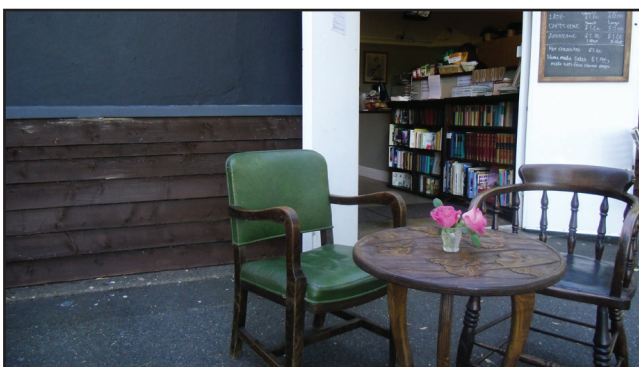
- Chair
- Vice-chair
- Secretary
- Treasurer

Nominations for officers must be submitted in writing, proposed and seconded, to the secretary on secretary@charltonresidents.org by 8.00 pm, on Friday 3 October.

10. Election of general management committee. Our constitution seeks at least 16 members in addition to the 4 officers with the aim of securing at least one from each road in the area. Nominations for Committee members may be submitted in advance to the secretary in writing or proposed at the meeting

11. Any other resolutions. These will require a two thirds majority and must have been submitted in writing to the secretary by Monday 29 September.

12. Any other business



The Old Cottage Coffee Shop

Charlton Park

Summer time opening hours
Every day from 10am to 5pm

All day breakfast now available

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.





Cleaning up is fun!



David Gayther gives CPR

Teaming up for a clean bill of health

Enthusiastic CCRA volunteers met at St Richard's Hall to devote the sunny July morning of our annual Community Day to cleaning up local streets and the afternoon to sprucing up people's health.

Fourteen garbage gatherers set off, armed with litter-pickers, secateurs and rubbish bags, high-vis tabards and rubber gloves (courtesy of Greenwich Council).

Helpers split into small groups to scour surrounding streets, piling discarded litter into their plastic sacks. Others pruned unruly shrubbery and audited broken paving stones, potholes and concentrations of litter or dog mess. Greenwich Council arranged a special rubbish collection and CCRA later sent a report on the streets for their action.

Weary cleaners enjoyed a tasty free lunch in the Hall before health and wellbeing experts prepared the afternoon session.

Advice ranged from help in reporting sexual, emotional or financial abuse to responsible dog control and ownership, tips on exercise, diet, dealing with dementia and raising cancer awareness, plus information on local air quality.

Charlton Athletic Community Trust's 'Kick the Habit' team were there to measure air quality in people's lungs, and advise on quitting smoking. For further information: www.the-last-time.co.uk or ring: 0800 587 5833)

An attentive audience gathered to hear Katy Grazebrook, consultant clinical psychologist and clinical lead at Greenwich Time To Talk (GTTT). NHS Greenwich commissions GTTT to deliver talking therapies rather than medication via primary care to people

aged 18 and over, with mild to moderate mental health difficulties, such as anxiety and depression. People with more severe conditions are guided to seek appropriate help. (For more information ring 020 3260 1100.)

Later, St John's Ambulance trainer Elaine Cross unpacked half a man from a bag and demonstrated how to restart his heart.

The first thing to check is your own safety, she said: no point in creating another casualty. Shout for help and check if they are breathing. She called CCRA treasurer David Gayther from the audience and taught him cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR heart massage). Using his new skills, he helped with the defibrillator while the audience held its breath. The man was plastic – tomorrow's litter – but the lesson could be a life-saver.

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Latest developments in the story of Charlton's Planning...

Many residents in Charlton Church Lane were disappointed not to have halted an application to develop the Liberal Club, which will now contain ten flats. While the building sorely needs a revamp, plans accepted by the council will cut the space available for community use. Residents in neighbouring properties were notified of the development application but did not realise they must object for their concerns to count. Commenters are invited to tick a box indicating whether they support, object or are neutral but the online form does not make clear that only objections will carry weight. Nor is everyone aware there must be objections from at least eight people, from different households for their views to be considered.

Charlton Church Lane residents, wiser now, are mounting a strong campaign objecting to proposals to demolish the neighbouring Conservative Club and replace it with ten flats and six houses. Residents in neighbouring properties feel this would overshadow their existing homes and gardens. As we go to press this application is still being considered by RBG's Planning Department and may go before the Woolwich and Thamesmead Area Planning Committee. CCRA has objected on the grounds of parking, road safety difficulties and further loss of community facilities.

IKEA: Greenwich council gave outline permission for the go-ahead of the new store. Some local groups protested that the council had not properly followed

procedures and others that they had applied for the existing Sainsbury's to become a listed building. Eric Pickles decided there was no case to answer, so **IKEA** is now preparing detailed plans. These must be approved so many residents hope for more answers to concerns about pollution and congestion.

CCRA plays a very active part in monitoring and, where necessary, challenging proposed developments. A small but highly committed and knowledgeable group in our Planning Action Group (PAG) regularly liaise with the council and update the management committee. We are grateful to Councillor Gary Parker for his support and for his time and effort in this. PAG members would be delighted if you could work with them either regularly or in short-term action when appropriate.

... and an asset to CCRA's community

An Asset of Community Value (ACV) listing means that if the owners of a listed property decide to sell for development purposes, the local community has an opportunity to intervene in the selling process. If the community decides to do so, there is a six month moratorium on any sale. Several pubs, including the White Swan in Charlton Village, have already been listed as ACVs. Charlton Athletic's stadium and Progress Hall Community Centre in Eltham are also on the list of successful nominations which Greenwich Council is required to publish

As some people in the neighbourhood will know, CCRA has applied for St Richard's Hall to be listed as an ACV. In fact we do not believe that, in St Richard's case there is either an imminent danger of its sale or a likelihood of its sale in the near future. Indeed St Luke's Church representatives have assured us they have no plans to sell the Hall. However, since it lies at the very heart of CCRA's neighbourhood, being made an ACV would mean that CCRA would receive early notice of any such plan. This would give residents an opportunity to look at alternative provision for our social and community events.

More importantly for both residents and St Luke's, recognition of the hall's value to the local community would signal its importance and perhaps make it possible to bid for community funding. If you want to know more about ACVs go to www.communities.gov.uk/communities/communityrights/righttobid/ or Greenwich council's website.

**Cattleya**

Authentic Thai food and home cooked Spanish Tapas

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Present your CCRA Membership card to our staff

Delivery Service is now available
Free delivery within 3 miles of Cattleya. Minimum order £15.
Free prawn crackers on orders over £20

Live music every month
By our local band and musicians Gus Glen and SE7

Homemade cake



Address: 52 Charlton Church Lane, London, SE7 7AB
Tel: 0207 642 1014 **Website:** www.cattleyathaimed.com
Opening Hours: Tues - Fri 17.00 - 23.00, Sat - Sun 12.00 - 23.00

Community interest groups

CCRA Singing Group

The Singing Group will start up again on Monday 8 September. The remaining dates for the autumn are: 22 September; 9, 20 October; 6, 17 November; 4 December. We meet every second week, alternately on Mondays and Thursdays. Although we do give occasional performances, the group is really about singing for our own pleasure, and there's no pressure to attend every session. We are always happy to welcome new members, whatever your level of experience. If you are interested in joining, please contact Chris on 020 8858 7377.

CCRA Music Group ('SE7')

The band meets fortnightly on Mondays, starting on 15 September, and then on 29 September; 13, 27 October; 10, 24 November; 8 December. We also hope to provide regular music evenings on Sundays at Cattleya in Charlton Church Lane, and the first of these is scheduled for 21 September. We are always interested in gaining new members and would especially like to hear from players of melody instruments – strings, woodwind or brass. If you are interested in joining the group, whatever your level of experience or expertise, please contact Chris on 020 8858 7377.

Book Group

Entry Island was declared a good whodunit by those who like that genre. Many were fascinated by the historical context for this book - in both Scotland and Canada, and the journey which linked the two - but less grabbed by the story or characters, which seemed a little weak. Those who had previously read this author didn't think it stood up as well as others. At the next meeting on Tues 16 September we will be discussing *The Cat's Table* by Michael Ondaatje. And at that meeting we'll be looking at the Booker shortlist and deciding on books to read for the October meeting. For more details contact zoe31well@hotmail.com.

Charlton Community Gardens

Charlton Community Gardens group has had a very successful summer – winning an award from the Royal Horticultural Society for its work. Check out the plaque at the station. Sadly however, both their station garden and another at Maze Hill have had plants taken--carefully dug round and removed soon after planting. A spokesperson said: 'We've lost more

of our edible flowers than veg – and this means that the garden is not looking as good as we would expect because some plants have been taken. We appreciate that the best way to control this is attention from passers-by and we encourage friends of the garden to keep an eye out. It's fairly obvious that we can only share the produce once the plants grow to maturity.' Japanese Knotweed from elsewhere on the station site has been invading gardens in Delafield Road. Residents suggest some kind of joint petition to the railway authorities to get them to take action. If you're interested please contact one of the editors: contact details on page 8.

Old Cottage Café Update

Thanks to Michael and Mim at the Old Cottage Coffee Shop in Charlton Park and their petition to the Council, work will start in earnest this month on the new loos in the pavilion next door to the café. The pavilion will be closed for refurbishment and modernisation during September. Improvements include disabled access and baby changing facilities in both the Ladies and Gents. Alternative toilets will be available while the alterations are underway.

But so far the outcome does not look promising. The outside was painted before the roof was repaired. Temporary upgrades include soap dispensers sited over the floor rather than the sinks, toilet paper dispensers locked where no-one has a key, no clear signage to the Ladies and Gents and manholes galore. Meanwhile, there has been no decision about Michael's application to turn one pavilion room into a meeting room for the community. Please contact *Grapevine* (details on p8) if you have any views on this. We will keep you posted.

