

# A site for store eyes

**W**ith IKEA moving towards full planning permission for a store on the old Sainsbury's site, CCRA met the Project Manager and PR Company.

We raised concerns about the store's environmental impact and discussed higher traffic levels with associated poorer air quality, 'greening', sustainability and visual impact. We noted the need for further traffic modelling to reduce traffic (eg no click and collect, no deliveries from the store); the store will not be car-

## **Our planning sleuths are on the case**

Planning and building have a major impact on our area and keep CCRA's Planning Action Group busy finding details of applications inside and outside the area that might impact on us. We aim to recommend which applications merit pursuit and objections, keep abreast of relevant regulations, strategies and legislation, compile an information resource bank and recommend action when deemed appropriate.

Once an application has been granted the team works to ensure it is carried out in accordance with conditions. PAG meets regularly with RBG and ward councillors to follow up these issues.

bon neutral but needs to be as green as possible with scope to modify the external architecture. Once the full application is submitted we will continue dialogue. If you have a view email [secretary@charltonresidents.org](mailto:secretary@charltonresidents.org)

Following our meeting IKEA held workshops with local groups to explore training/employment opportunities and how they might support the local economy. The new Sainsbury's store is due to open on 24 June and M&S on 9 July.

Recent questions were about extensions and loft conversions. If your neighbour is planning an extension it may be in your interest to seek a party wall agreement. The Government's Planning Portal has clear advice on: [www.planningportal.gov.uk/permission/commonprojects/loftconversion/](http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/permission/commonprojects/loftconversion/)

Consult your local planning department. Failure to comply with rules can result in demolition and/or restoration. Building Control can be contacted at: Fourth floor, The Woolwich Centre, 35 Wellington Street, Woolwich SE18 6HQ or [building.control@royalgreenwich.gov.uk](mailto:building.control@royalgreenwich.gov.uk)



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# Skating on thin ice?

Opposition to the borough's plan to build a skateboard park in Charlton Park is growing. Residents, angry about the lack of democracy in designating the park, have organised a petition calling on the council to halt the development.

On 24 July 2014 RBG's Cabinet voted to approve Charlton Park as the preferred location for a new wheeled sports facility/skateboard park'. They offered local residents a choice between three sites within Charlton Park and called it 'consultation'. Nowhere other than Charlton Park was an option.

The new plan arises because RBG sold an existing skate park site in Woolwich to Berkeley Homes. RBG received £365,000 Section 6 money from the developers to replace the facility within two miles of the original.

A recent 'skatepark stakeholders' meeting in Woolwich Town Hall fielded six interested parties: one from CCRA, one from the Charlton Society, one local resident, the Charlton Champion and two skateboarder community representatives, chaired by Amy London, RBG's Skatepark project manager.

It was generally agreed there should be a replacement skatepark but only the skateboarders believed Charlton Park was the right venue. If the plans go ahead work will start in February 2016 and the skatepark will open in Charlton Park later next year. To consult the council, email Amy London at [wheel-sports-survey@royalgreenwich.gov.uk](mailto:wheel-sports-survey@royalgreenwich.gov.uk).

To object, contact your ward councillors [Allan MacCarthy, Gary Parker, Miranda Williams (RBG



cabinet member for Culture and Creative Industries]] to call in the planning application and get them involved.

To sign the petition go to the Old Coffee Shop, Charlton Park, email or ring a contact listed on Grapevine's back page or copy this into your browser: <http://www.change.org/p/greenwich-council-skateboard-area-consult-park-users-before-putting-it-in-charlton-park>

## Air quality

**CCRA conducted** its own enquiry into our area's air pollution for February, facilitated by the No to Silvertown Tunnel Campaign Group (<http://www.silvertowntunnel.co.uk/>), who obtained diffusion tubes that measure nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) levels from Network for Clean Air. With generous residents' donations we placed 15 tubes on lamp and parking posts about 2m from the ground then carefully measured and recorded date, time and location to calculate the final results.

These were mixed: the highest levels (over 50 mcg of NO<sub>2</sub> per m<sup>2</sup>) were on the CCRA area's periphery (outside Fossdene School, junctions of Delafield and Charlton Church Lane/Inverine and Victoria Way); others inside the area were between 21 and 38: significant because the legal EU limit is 40 and levels are rising. Our survey shows a rise of around 13% outside the school and 36% at the Delafield and Church Lane junction over No to Silvertown's AQ survey in January 2014 .

Increased traffic, especially diesel transport, is the main cause of raised NO<sub>2</sub> levels, which also impacts on other air pollutants, such as particulates. King's College has produced phone apps ('London Air' and 'City Air') with up to date information on current air conditions throughout the capital and has a website (<http://www.breathelondon.org/>) with information and support.



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# Dig now for victory in our annual show

**T**here is an old country saying: "Only the farmer who plants in the spring can harvest in the autumn".

On that basis – NOW is the time to plan your entries for CCRA's 4th Annual Flower, Produce & Craft Show. This popular event is being held on Saturday 12 September 2015 in St Richards Hall, Swallowfield Road.

The Schedule enclosed on this page lists the competition classes and the rules for entry. All children's classes (up to 8 and then 8-12 years old) are free to enter this year. As a new initiative we are hoping to collaborate with Fossdene School so their pupils can join in the fun and participate.

Judging, as in previous years, will be conducted by the Blackheath and Greenwich Women's Institute. For guidance on what the judges will be looking for, you are strongly advised to look at the "Hints and Tips on Exhibiting and Staging Entries" document which will be posted on the CCRA website or ring Len on 0208 858 4920 for a hard copy version.

Entries have increased every year with 90 in 2014. We hope to top 100 in 2015. This is an opportunity to showcase the wide range of gardening, baking and craft skills/creativity demonstrated by people living in our area.

Now that you know what it is all about, why not have a go yourself, or get your children motivated. Mark the date on your calendar now and watch this space for further updates.



**Above: Joy Ogden surveys the table of tasty food and fabulous flowers**

## Make it a clean sweep

**Saturday 4 July** - is our special community day. In the morning the focus will be on cleaning and green-ing – making our streets cleaner and tidier. There will, as usual, be a free lunch for those who volunteer in the morning.

In the afternoon, we are planning to close part of Sundorne Road so that children (and adults) can play outside. We also hope to provide workshops for adults and children to try new leisure activities.

If you have a skill you'd be prepared to share with others please contact Chris on 020 8858 7377 or [events@charltonresidents.org](mailto:events@charltonresidents.org). He'd love to hear from you.

### Be a good neighbour

Working together we can reduce burglaries. We've all seen them - free papers and letters sticking out of letterboxes. This is a sure sign to a burglar, that a house is temporarily empty. Are your neighbours on holiday? Away for a couple of days on business? If you see something sticking out of your neighbour's letterbox - be a good neighbour and push it through.



### The Old Cottage Coffee Shop

Charlton Park

New longer winter opening hours  
10:00-4:00 every day

**All day breakfast now available**

The sun shone, the people came and laid their blankets on the ground. This was last year's Big Lunch in Charlton Park when residents got together to share a picnic and music with their neighbours. Join us again this year on Sunday, June 7. Same venue. Look for the CCRA banner. All welcome!

## Family fun for the garden gang

**O**n a lovely sunny afternoon in the Easter holidays, Charlton Community Gardens group hosted an event for families to become more involved in their gardens. A plastic sheet was spread out on the concourse at Charlton station where children made wildflower seed bombs to throw into the cuttings at the side of the railway or planted seeds in a pot to take home. By the birch trees they helped plant seed potatoes in canvas bags to grow in the station garden. Eight young people worked with men from Men in Sheds to build a wooden bug house to take home. Others made a bug house from plastic kits supplied by Kew Gardens. Another highlight was bug hunting in the Bug Hotel we built last Easter, with even a bee being (temporarily) captured in the bug pot! People left with more things to do at home—seeds or chitted potatoes to plant or a young nasturtium seedling in a pot. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Our annual meeting is from 3pm at the Gardening Party on Sunday 5 July. New members welcome on the Management Committee and various working parties. If you'd like to be involved, please contact [charltoncommunitygardens@gmail.com](mailto:charltoncommunitygardens@gmail.com)

## Kicking up a stink

Does Charlton Central have a growing problem with dog poo? Those with small children are often the first to notice this problem. One Charlton mum reported that her child had stepped in dog excrement and unwittingly trodden it into school. Charlton Central Neighbourhood Watch (CCNW) is launching an Anti-Dog Poo Campaign – 'Foul Watch'. We have written to the Council to find out what action they are taking. In the past they have sprayed 'Bin it, Bag it!' signs on the pavement and posted information on lamp-posts but to date no Fixed Penalty Notices have been issued in our area. As part of 'Foul Watch' residents are asked to report any sightings to CCRA's streetmonitor@charltonresidents.org. You can also report it on the RBG's website but letting CCRA's Environment Group also know, enables us to monitor recurring patterns. Our street audit will continue to June pending further action.



## Ditch the doorstep sellers

After feedback from residents, Charlton Central Neighbourhood Watch made an official complaint to RBG's Trading Standards over the doorstep selling techniques of ADT Alarm and Security Company. Their misquoting of crime statistics, inappropriate questions about personal security and aggressive behaviour alarmed many neighbours. We are grateful to TS for their prompt action in issuing ADT with 'compliance' instructions. Don't tolerate intimidation from Cold Callers. Report it to Trading Standards on [tradingstandards@royalgreenwich.gov.uk](mailto:tradingstandards@royalgreenwich.gov.uk) or ring 020 8921 8223. If you would like to join the Watch email [brendataggart49@gmail.com](mailto:brendataggart49@gmail.com)

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.





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

## How happy is my valley?

**A**nother roller coaster season ends and it's time to reflect on the a/c d/c graph that reflects Charlton's latest forays in the Championship. We ended up 12th— slap bang in the middle of the table. Not bad for a side predicted by the national press to be relegation contenders. I'm bound to say my forecast was tenth.

There was a time mid-season when my confidence was shaken. But three team leaders later and we got back in contention. After fans' favourite Chris Powell departed Bob Peeterstook over. He started off well but was unable to deliver and we went on a long run of draws and defeats that saw Les Garcons tumble down the table.

Peeters was sacked and Israeli Guy Luzon took over as Head Coach. With little known of his pedigree we watched in despair as his first game in charge at Watford ended in a 5-0 thrashing. That was the nadir; we bounced back and went on a run, that saw us climb back up into Play Offs contention only to fall away again at the end.

The final match at the Valley was exciting. But only if you supported Bournemouth. They came to Charlton needing a win and requiring Watford to draw if they were to be crowned Champions. Watford duly obliged and Bournemouth delivered a masterclass in football as they clinically despatched our Boys 3 – 0. A key player in Bournemouth's game? Why, Yann Kermorgant, ex Charlton striker who has

been instrumental in getting Bournemouth in to the premiership.

Post match, Luzon acknowledged the away team's superiority and suggested they were a good model on how to play. He confirmed that five or six new players would be needed to boost the team but would not be drawn on who was going or staying.

The team that finished the season bore little resemblance to that which began. New signings include Tony Watt, an exciting forward whose dazzling runs into the penalty area have brightened up all our Saturday afternoons. He has galvanised Vetokele and Bulot into renaissance and helped return belief to a team that was floundering. Diarra has added poise and purpose in midfield. Jordan Cousins grows in stature and confidence and in goal Stephen Henderson has several times been the difference between success and defeat. His one-handed penalty save against Leeds was nothing short of genius. Johann Burg Gudmunsson has delighted fans with his talents but he is not committing to another season at the Valley til he sees what owner Roland Duchatelet has in store. Fans voted Jordan Cousins Player of the Year, with Joe Gomes Young Player of the Year.

Guy Luzon has drawn the best out of this small squad, with new blood he may be able to do better. A place in the play-offs should be on the cards. Come On You Reds!

## A performance to watch

London Bubble Theatre plans a series of outdoor, podcast-linked performances where audiences embark on a 'time trail', inspired by the true story of Ruth Belville, her chronometer and her route for 'selling time'. Starting close to her Charlton family home, audiences will follow Ruth to Greenwich Observatory, and to the river bank for the final performance. Zoe and the Time Lady will reconnect local communities with a key part of Greenwich's history, using real stories from the area today. The Bubble hopes to connect with partners including CCRA and Royal Observatory Greenwich, and interview 25 local people, exploring lost stories and bringing them to life through outdoor performances. Contact [grapevine@charltonresidents.org](mailto:grapevine@charltonresidents.org) or [shipra@londonbubble.org.uk](mailto:shipra@londonbubble.org.uk).



### *Cattleya*

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**Opening Hours:** Tues - Fri 17.00 - 23.00, Sat - Sun 12.00 - 23.00

# Community interest groups

## Walking group

The CCRA Walking Group has ventured out each month with superb luck on the weather front! In February we walked to Castle Wood and climbed to the top of Severndroog Castle for splendid views. March was a treat as a qualified Greenwich guide showed us an expert view of Greenwich that few of us knew. April's walk had an historical theme along the Thames Path from Surrey Docks to London Bridge - again in glorious sunshine. In May we set out on a miserable damp and windy day - but our luck was in - a peaceful stretch of the Green Chain Walk, sunshine, birds and wild flowers.

The next walk on Sunday **7 June** will be to Erith Marshes, starting from Charlton Station at 10am, to be back in time for CCRA's Big Lunch in Charlton Park. Just turn up with appropriate clothing for the weather and strong shoes that you won't mind getting muddy. On **5 July**, the walk is again a guided two mile, two hour walk, entitled Discover your City: 2000 years of history. We start from London Bridge at 10.30am and take in the Romans, mediaeval Guilds, Lord Mayors, the Great Fire, the Blitz and the modern city. For more detail on this or other walks please contact Jill on [jillmo@btinternet.com](mailto:jillmo@btinternet.com).

## Book group

Our Book Group continues to thrive, with around a dozen members meeting regularly to discuss and dissect good reads. We try to ring the changes - from classics to books in the news, first time authors to favourites. Coming up in June and July are Elizabeth is Missing by first-time author Emma Healey, and Nora Webster by Colm Toibin. For further details: [zoe31well@hotmail.com](mailto:zoe31well@hotmail.com)

## CCRA Singing Group

Dates until the summer are **4, 15 June; 2, 13 July**. We are always happy to welcome new members, whatever your level of experience. 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. If you are interested in joining, please contact Chris on 020 8858 7377.

## CCRA Music Group ('SE7')

The group continues to meet regularly, and to perform

in Cattleya on Sunday evenings about once a month. Our remaining sessions until the summer are **8, 22 June; 6 July**. We will also be performing again at Cattleya in June and some of us will be providing musical entertainment at the CCRA Big Lunch on 7 June. 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.

## Knit and natter

Last year we supported Age UK by producing tiny hats for Innocent Smoothie bottles. This year the hats are a little larger. We are working on a project for Queen Elizabeth Hospital's neo-natal unit, knitting small hats for premature and vulnerable babies as well as blankets for incubators and cots and small knitted toys. We are proud to be part of the BLISS campaign to support 'babies born too soon, too small, too sick' (<http://www.bliss.org.uk/>).

We welcome all knitters including would-be learners, beginners and experienced knitters. We can help you become a confident knitter - the natter's pretty good too and the tea and cakes are excellent!

Come and join us at St Richard's Hall between 2 pm and 4pm on the following dates: **2, 16 June; 7, 28 July**. We have a stock of wool although donations are very gratefully received. You will need to bring along some 4mm needles (or you can buy them at the session). If you would like more information or have any queries contact: [chair@charltonresidents.org](mailto:chair@charltonresidents.org) or call 0208 853 3354.

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## Dates for your diary

**Saturday 7 June**

### **The Big Lunch**

Charlton Park from 12.00

Bring a picnic. Bring a game or a musical instrument & something to sit on! For further details contact [events@charltonresidents.org](mailto:events@charltonresidents.org) or just turn up and look for the CCRA banner

**Saturday 4 July**

### **Community Day**

(see page 4)

**Saturday 12 September**

### **Flower and produce Show**

St Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road

(see insert and page 4 for full details)

**Watch this space for another Open Garden event in September! Date to be confirmed.**

**Monday 5 October**

### **CCRA Annual General Meeting**

St Richard's Hall

**Saturday 17 October**

### **Quiz Night**

St Richard's Hall

## **LOST and FOUND pets**

Have you lost a pet? - Don't worry. We can help.

Have you found a stray animal? We have just the service for you. CCRA's 'Lost and Found Pets' website service is up and running. Email [info@charltonresidents.org](mailto:info@charltonresidents.org) and we'll post your information.

## **Classified Ads**

The Territorial Army building in Victoria Way is going to open on 21 April as a Montessori nursery for children aged two and a half to five years, offering part-time and full-time (9.00 - 4.00) places, information at: [littlepeoplesmontessori@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:littlepeoplesmontessori@yahoo.co.uk)

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](mailto:sarah.roseblade@ntlworld.com)

Rates for individuals and small businesses:

8cm x 8cm £40 for 1, £110 for 4 and £200 for 6  
16cm x 8cm £60 for 1 and £200 for 4, £320 for 6  
Small ad up to 15 words £10 for 1 and £30 for 4.

## CCRA needs you

We'd like you to join us! The more members we have the more influence we have with the council and the better our views can be heard. As a member you can also join in great events like our popular Open Gardens. Membership costs only £5 a year (that's less than 10p a week). If you haven't joined yet (or haven't renewed your membership this year) just email [membership@charltonresidents.org](mailto:membership@charltonresidents.org). Our membership secretary will be delighted to hear from you.

### **Community Safety**

Alerted by residents, the Charlton Central Neighbourhood Watch (CCNWatch) complained to RBG's Trading Standards (TS) regarding the doorstep selling techniques of ADT Alarm and Security Company. Their misquoting of crime statistics, inappropriate questions about personal security and aggressive behaviour had alarmed many neighbours. We are grateful to TS for their prompt action in issuing ADT with 'compliance' instructions. Don't tolerate intimidation from Cold Callers. Report it to Trading Standards on [tradingstandards@royalgreenwich.gov.uk](mailto:tradingstandards@royalgreenwich.gov.uk) or ring 020 8921 8223. To join the Watch email [brendataggart49@gmail.com](mailto:brendataggart49@gmail.com)

### **Hedges**

Have you got a dangerous hedge? The growing season is upon us and there is a lot of greenery overhanging local pavements. Recently spotted in our area - a lavender bush in Delafield Road with woody spikes at child's eye level and overhanging hedges and creepers. Some dangerous hedges are unlawful and some are just unsightly. Are you harbouring one?

### **In Memoriam**

It is with sadness we announce the passing of **Brenda Cordier** of Delafield Road. She died peacefully in her sleep in Queen Elizabeth Hospital after a long illness. Brenda was known to many in the CCRA area as she was a frequent walker of her beloved big black Labrador dog; Ben. Our sympathy goes to Dave and the family.

**Dania Myers** of Elliscombe Road died suddenly and unexpectedly in April. CCRA singers are particularly saddened by her death as she was a lively member of the group. Dania and David were also regular hosts for open garden sessions. Our sympathy goes to David and to Dania's son and daughter-in-law.

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





## Charlton chooses Labour again

**T**he new MP for Charlton is Labour's Matthew Pennycook. One of his first interviews after the result was announced was to Grapevine. He told us he was determined to carry on his commitment to central Charlton.

After a hard-fought campaign contested by six candidates, Matthew emerged triumphant with 24,384 votes in what is a traditional Labour seat.

CCRA scored a major coup by organising a hustings meeting at St Richard's Hall two weeks before election day, where all but the Green Party attended.

Seventy people thronged the hall for a lively meeting. Candidates were given an initial two minutes to tell the audience why they would be a good MP for the area, followed by questions from the audience. Chairperson Brenda Taggart kept proceedings running smoothly, helped by a gigantic egg timer and a bell. Subjects included: the Silvertown Tunnel; air pollution; local housing and the right to buy; disposable public assets; respecting and preserving the unique character of the borough; the NHS and its local impact; pre school provision and many others. Matthew told Grapevine that he intended to continue his work in the borough and especially in the CCRA area. He said: "Charlton, Greenwich and Woolwich are undergoing rapid change. Much of this is extremely positive, but it will bring significant challenges."

These included providing improved public transport for a growing population; tackling congestion and air pollution; getting the best deal for residents during the London Bridge rebuild and moving beyond the misery of Southeastern trains when their franchise expires in 2018; ensuring local growth is shared

### STOP PRESS

Join us at the THE BIG LUNCH. Sunday 7 June from midday at Charlton Park. Just look for the CCRA banner. Bring a picnic – and something to share with neighbours. Bring a game or a musical instrument and something to sit on! Everyone is welcome!



Triumphant: New MP Matthew Pennycook speaking at our CCRA hustings meeting just before the election

in order to tackle long-term and youth unemployment, and working to secure new homes that local people can afford and ensuring that development locally works for local communities.

Matthew told us: "In Charlton, these challenges present us with historic opportunities to address the poor connectivity between Charlton Riverside and Charlton Village; we need more frequent and reliable train services from Charlton direct to Charing Cross; and we need to open up and make better use of the Thames, not least by finally securing the long discussed 'Green Bridge' linking Maryon Park to an enlarged Barrier Park and the river beyond.

'The strong, collective voice of Charlton Central Residents' Association will be crucial. I will work tirelessly over the next five years to honour the trust that residents in Charlton have placed in me. I look forward to working with CCRA, helping to protect and enhance the distinct identity of Central Charlton.'

Matthew lives in West Greenwich and grew up in South London. He takes over from the incumbent Labour MP Nick Raynsford, who has now stood down.



Get the date in your diary now - Saturday 4 July. It's cleaning and greening day! Details on page 4.