

Dates for your diary

Saturday 2 July

CCRA Community Day

10am clean up, 12.30-1.30 Lunch, 2pm- 4pm

Freecycle, 3pm Claire Loops talking about plans for our area

Saturday 10 September

CCRA 5th Flower and Produce Show

See yellow insert

Sunday 11 September

Open Gardens, details to be confirmed

Want to be part of living history?

The Wall to Wall production company are making a BBC living history series this summer and want a family to live without modern amenities. Participants should ideally be a family with 2 children (aged 8+), perhaps with an older teenager. For more details and application form contact backintime@walltowall.co.uk

Call for Artists and Makers!

We plan an 'open studios' event, opening our houses on 26 & 27 November to show our creative efforts and perhaps sell some as Christmas gifts. If you live near Charlton's CCRA and want to participate, please email handmadeincharlton@gmail.com for details.

Local events this summer

Saturday 2 July: 10am-2pm Little People's Montessori Summer Fayre, Victoria Way SE7. Entrance £1 games, stalls, BBQ, bake off, face painting & more...

Saturday 23 July: 1pm to 5pm Charlton Community Day (in conjunction with Global Fusion Music & Arts) at Charlton House. Crafts, food stalls, entertainment, competitions and workshops. If you would like a stall please contact info@globalfusionarts.co.uk

Thursday 28 July: 11am-3pm Here Come the Girls! WW1 Family Fun Day Charlton House will be transformed into a Red Cross wartime hospital and filled with free family friendly activities. Free event

RBG consultation

Greenwich is consulting about our parks and open spaces. To comment go to www.consultations.royalgreenwich.gov.uk by 3 July. NOTE: 5 July seems certain to be the new planning board date re RBG's plans to build a skatepark in Charlton Park. To comment contact your local councilor (RBG website above)

Classified ads

Pound Park Nursery School, rated by Ofsted as 'Outstanding', has places for three year olds from September. Free 15 hours per week (8.45am-11.45am or 12.30pm-3.30pm), plus wraparound 8am-6pm term time care available. Places for paying two year olds also on offer. Book a visit at any time to see the high quality early years education on offer! An opportunity not to be missed for your pre-schooler in this adventurous oasis. Contact: Sarah Harrison, Head, Tel: 020 8858 1791

Baxter Party Services

Children's Entertainer, Bouncy Castles, DJ, Adult Karaoke, Soft Play and Slush Machines, ALL YOUR PARTY NEEDS. Tel: 07950 287 237, email: sales@baxterpartyservices.co.uk, website: www.baxterpartyservices.co.uk

Siobhán's me&i, Plumstead, SE18

Offering ethical, comfortable and fun clothing for kids and women. Hosts get discounts, gifts and exclusive buying access. tel: 07951 012264, email: siobhan.trethewey@meandi.eu
website: www.meandi.com

The Zen Home, Nancy DeBroka

Providing discreet, compassionate help to organise your space. Insured, DBS-checked, member APDO-UK.
Tel: 07872 671654 email: Nancy@thezenhome.net
website: www.thezenhome.net

Delphine Delovely, Shooters Hill

Vintage seamstress and dressmaking tutor; group and individual classes available for beginners upwards. Learn to sew beautiful garments! Tel: 07971 010402 email: Deli@delphinedelovely.com
website: www.delphinedelovely.com

Bo&Bel ontemporary teething & breastfeeding jewellery - please add MAMA for 10% discount

Tel: 07967 580926 email: boandbel@gmail.com

website www.boandbel.co.uk Instagram @bo.and.bel

Nurture Birthing Claire Papazidis Taking the Birthing World by Calm! HypnoBirthing™ program (original Mongan Method) that includes special breathing, relaxation, visualisation, meditation, nutrition and positive body toning. Tel: 07971 690203 email: claire-papazidis@gmail.com www.facebook.com/nurturebirthing

Grapevine reaches more than 1,000 homes and retail outlets, in our designated area and beyond. To advertise contact grapevine@charltonresidents.org. Rates for individuals and small businesses: small ads up to 15 words plus contact details: £10 for 1 issue, £30 for 4. Panel ads single column 8cmx8cm: £40 for 1-4 issues, £35 for 5+. Other sizes please enquire.

Comments, feedback, queries or material for the next edition of Grapevine should be emailed to: grapevine@charltonresidents.org by 12 September. Alternatively, phone Joy Ogden on 0208 293 3034 or Bob Smith on 0208 853 2697





One young visitor to CCRA's Big lunch in Charlton Park gathers daisies in the sunshine, on a June day to treasure - full of music, picnics, neighbours and pleasure.

Join us to sweep away the cobwebs

Saturday 2 July is CCRA's annual community day and it promises to be action packed. As usual we will do a general clean up and eradicate some local eye sores. Why not come along and help to make a difference? You could wield a pair of secateurs or a trowel and chop back tree growth or weeds. Or you might favour litter-picking duties in which case you will be issued with a litter picker and directed to a local area. All volunteers will get a delicious free lunch between 12.30 and 1.30. But the fun doesn't stop there!

From 2pm to 4pm there will be a freecycle event at St Richard's Hall. Bring items you no longer need that someone else might really want - and take away anything that catches your eye - all for free. We will donate anything unclaimed by the end of the day to a local charity, but as volunteers generally have to transport everything we make two requests: firstly, please don't bring electrical items as charity shops won't take them; secondly, it would be a great help if at 4pm you could take away anything you brought which has not been snapped up.

At 3pm Clare Loops (Planning Policy Manager in the Council's Directorate of Regeneration, Enterprise and Skills) will join us to talk about the latest plans for redeveloping the riverside. The plans are currently out

to consultation so this is an important opportunity to learn more about the scheme and feed into the consultation process. Proposals include replacing Asda with a primary school and building a waste recycling site just off Bugsby's Way. Would you like the Argos site to be turned into a park and Makro replaced by a residential block? These are all suggestions included in the new Site Allocation Plan drawn up by the RBG's Planning Department. Come along and have your say. Tea and coffee will be available throughout the afternoon.

Greenwich supports the work of CCRA in cleaning up in the area and you can report street cleaning issues such as littering, fly-tipping, graffiti or overflowing bins by going to fix.royalgreenwich.gov.uk or by phoning 020 8854 8888. The council has been trying to improve street cleaning in Charlton, with a dedicated task force made up of a waste advisor an enforcement officer, and a mobile crew, which comes to the area daily and deals with a range of issues, including bins left on the pavement, fly-tipping, bulky household waste, dog mess and illegal business waste.

Do your bit to make our patch in Charlton cleaner and safer by joining us on **Saturday 2 July, 10am at St Richard's Hall.**



5th Annual flower, produce and craft show. See yellow insert for details of how to enter. Get the date in your diary - Saturday 10 September.

An uncommonly knotty problem

A report by someone who has found Knotweed in the waste ground between the end of his garden and Charlton station's platform

We're talking about Fallopia Japonica, aka Japanese Knotweed, a 'non-native invasive species' that could endanger your ability to sell a property or to get a mortgage on one should it be present there. In case this is new to you, here's a simple, introduction:

Knotweed spreads underground through 'rhizomes' splitting from the root system, which will penetrate brickwork, concrete and asphalt (that's your house, then). It can also root from carelessly discarded cuttings – a fingernail-sized piece of apparently dead material can allegedly sprout another rhizome after being dormant for 20 years.

For this reason, it's an offence 'to plant or otherwise cause Knotweed to grow' and disposal is strictly regulated – you must NOT just put it in your green bin. It can be dealt with, but usually this will involve treatment with some very unpleasant chemistry a couple of times a year for up to six years, so, combined with the disposal issues, it's probably a job for



Japanese knotweed

a licensed specialist.

What does Knotweed look like? It's a 'tall herbaceous perennial', with luscious green spade-like leaves growing from purple-speckled stems that dry out to bamboo-like canes after the growing season; it produces pink/white, rather pretty flowers. It is a quick-growing plant. If you can see any, you should assume that any ground within 7m of the visible growth is already contaminated.

There is no quick-fix solution - realistically, we're looking at long-term chemical warfare. Legally it's the responsibility of the property owner on whose land the problem is discovered.

You can read a more detailed version of this article with links to further sources of information and Network Rail contacts on our website: www.charltonresidents.org

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

Voices in the wilderness?

Does the Council listen when you sign a petition? Be warned, if you ask the Royal Borough of Greenwich you will have a very long wait for an answer.

Five years ago, CCRA's tireless Planning Action Group (PAG) noticed that in some cases, petitions objecting to or supporting a planning application were counted as one vote, while in other cases signatories were counted as individuals. PAG asked Greenwich Council to clarify the position and for more than a year CCRA officers and PAG members tried to get an answer but consistently failed to do so. A particularly diligent CCRA member took the matter to the Information Commission which ruled that Greenwich had no consistent policy. In June 2013, almost two years after the issue had first been raised, the Local Government Ombudsman ruled that Greenwich should agree and make public a consistent policy on its treatment of petitions.

PAG and CCRA officers continued to raise the issue with Greenwich's planning officers and with the chief executive, but it was a full year before chief executive Mary Ney (now retired) argued that nothing could be published until there had been "a root and branch review" of the borough's constitution. In August 2014, Mary Ney added that this review would lead to a consistent policy on petitions for all borough departments and would be completed within a few months - a date that she subsequently put off until April 2015.

Despite CCRA's continued badgering, it was not until April 2016, that we were told that the policy had to be retrieved from storage and would soon be available. Eventually in May this year a document was received which suggests that the planning department had already decided in 2014 that it would treat all petitions relating to planning applications as a single submission.

At the time of writing it has taken five years to get an answer to a simple question – basically are petitions worth the paper they are written on? We were told that the delays occurred because a cross departmental policy was required – although this has never materialised. We were told that the delays occurred because the treatment of petitions was to be considered as part of a constitutional review - this



Petitioning on the doorstep in Charlton... is it worth it?

did not happen and will apparently not happen in the foreseeable future. Greenwich was told in 2013 that the policy should be made public. We are currently being told that there is to be a public consultation within the next month on a draft Statement of Community Involvement.

This series of events (or non-events) is, as it stands, disgraceful. But put this alongside the skate park planning application in which, over recent months, many hours of discussion have focused on the claims and counter claims of two enormous petitions - one of which has been in favour and one of which has been against the proposal to site a skate park in Charlton Park – one collected door to door from houses round Charlton Park, the other collected from around the country and around the world. Throughout these discussions Greenwich's planning department had squirreled away a policy which stated that all petitions should be counted as one vote - yet made no mention of it.

CCRA will alert residents when (and perhaps if) the promised consultation occurs. Do you think it's fair that a single letter of objection or support should carry the same weight as 50 or even 1,000 people signing a petition? We'd love to know your views – it has taken five years of grunt work from a few dedicated people to get this far. It's time that the royal borough was straight with residents. It now appears that petitions, either for or against, carry very little weight, no matter how many signatures. Petitions in Greenwich, it seems, are not worth the paper they're written on.

Beware - bogus callers offering roof repairs

Royal Greenwich Trading Standards are warning residents to be aware of cold callers currently operating in the Borough. These Fraudsters are knocking on the door and telling residents they have a loose tile that needs repairing which is often not true.

A small price is negotiated and the traders get on the roof. The residents are then told there is a major problem, such as a chimney stack that may fall through the conservatory and they will be given some time to think about having the work done. Some days later the traders turn up and start work without permission. They then charge the consumer many thousands of pounds and make them feel they have to pay.' If you are contacted by anyone offering to work

on your roof then just say NO. If you are contacted by one of these cold callers you can report them and help to protect others by contacting the Royal Greenwich Trading Standards as soon as it happens on 0208 921 8223 or email tradingstandards@royalgreenwich.gov.uk Otherwise, call the Citizens Advice consumer service on 03454 04 05 06 (Monday – Friday 9am–5pm)

Community Safety Action Group

The CSAG group primarily co-ordinates the Charlton Central Neighbourhood Watch (CCNWatch). The Watch sends out regular updates and instant alerts to keep everyone in touch with issues of community safety and policing. It costs nothing to join the Watch – just email us your name and contact details to mail@ccnwatch.org and we'll add you to our contact list.

Woodland Terrace road collapse

Everyone who saw the dramatic pictures of a car half buried in a sinkhole in the Woodland Terrace Road will be worried whether it could happen elsewhere nearby. Investigators found it was caused by a failure in the main public sewer beneath the road. Thames Water Utilities are responsible for maintaining the sewer system in London and are repairing the sewer and collapsed road. As they work, Thames Water will collect evidence to help the Council understand why the road collapsed. So far, there has been no evidence to suggest the collapse was associated with the local geology or historical mine workings. Woodland Terrace will remain closed to traffic until the works are finished. RBG says it would like to thank residents for their patience and understanding.

Flower, Produce and Craft Show 2016

CCRA's annual Flower, Produce and Craft Show will once again bring the 'village into the city' on Saturday 10 September in St Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road. The Show celebrates the skills of Charlton's growers, bakers, preservers and crafters.

Last year saw a bumper number of entries and we look forward to breaking a new record this year. We are delighted that, once again, Fossdene School will participate, with entries across the whole age range.

As we are in our fifth year we are introducing our first special trophy award: the Len Weir Perpetual Trophy will be awarded to Best in Show. So put the date in your diary now. See the insert in this edition of Grapevine and start planning those entries. Good luck to all those competing.



TARINI YOGA

Charlton House SE7 8RE

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
6pm - 7:30pm and 7.45 – 9.15pm Hatha Yoga	6:30pm - 8pm Yin Yoga & Gong Meditation

50% off your first class with this advert

See you on the mat!

Email tariniyoga@yahoo.co.uk
07411 116911

Stamps for charity

Many thanks to those who have put their used stamps into the envelope attached to the CCRA bookcase at Charlton Station. Donating is an easy opportunity to support the work of the Royal National Institute of Blind People. Why not make this a regular habit and don't throw those used stamps away – we have a use for them.

Latest air quality tests show surprise fall in pollution but levels still too high

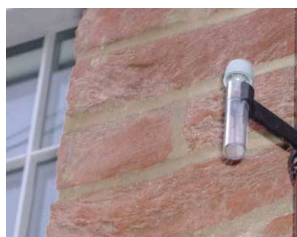
A team of CCRA volunteers went out in February to put up diffusion tubes in and around the CCRA area to monitor nitrogen dioxide in our atmosphere. They then went out again exactly one month later to take them down. Many thanks to the team for their efforts and to those members who generously supported the venture with donations towards the cost and analysis of the tubes.

The results from this year's CCRA Air Quality survey have thrown up a surprise - a reduction on last year's nitrogen dioxide levels on nine of the sites monitored. This does not necessarily represent a trend or an improvement overall in air quality but any decreases should be seen in the light of a slight reduction in NO₂ over eastern London in general. There are many factors that can influence the results, such as weather conditions, wind speed, traffic levels, etc so it is worth remembering this is just a comparison of a single month between two years. However, there are still some very high readings - some over 1.5 times the EU legal limit of 40 micrograms per cubic metre and many within the 30-39 moderate zone - and all in a largely residential area. Five additional sites were chosen this year with those along the Woolwich Road showing the highest: 54 outside Valley House and 59.8 at the junction of Church Lane and Woolwich Road, strangely one site near the Rose

of Denmark recorded 33.5 whilst another near the bridge in Victoria Way measured 40.8

There are still some very high measurements recorded every month by the local authority's monitoring units which have an effect on the health and well being of Greenwich residents, one such site is on the roundabout by the Woolwich Flyover. Anyone interested in finding out more about local air quality can refer to the Kings College website which publishes results from the London Boroughs monitoring sites (such as the Woolwich Flyover) and can be found at: www.londonair.org.uk

Transport for London has sought permission for the building of the Silvertown Tunnel, which means there will be a public examination of the scheme and everyone who has a view on it can register to take part. Link to the consultation from www.ccra.org. Within Greenwich, two of our local councillors - Allan McCarthy, chair of the Regeneration, Transport & Culture Committee, and Gary Parker - are to conduct a scrutiny session on air quality: 'Air quality monitoring, impact on health, planning policies and impact of the Silvertown crossing'.



Diffusion tube

The lights that make you cross!

Grapevine (Vintage 36, February 2016) reported on traffic problems at the bottom of Charlton Church Lane. Residents have expressed concerns about the increase in pollution from cars held up by the bank of traffic lights.

Following our article we were contacted by local mums who are also concerned about the crossing points outside the Post Office. We have raised these issues again with RBG. In May members of CCRA's Environment Action Group met with traffic planners to continue our discussions. They shared our concerns about the poor phasing of the lights and have asked TFL to improve the situation. We wait with bated breath for further news.

If you have a concern about an issue of environmental importance, let us know by contacting secretary@charltonresidents.org

**TUDOR
TOUCH**
EST. 1976

SHUTTERS AND
BLINDS AND MORE

LONDON SHOWROOM
26 The Village, London, SE7 8UD
020 8319 4444
www.tudortouch.com | sales@tudortouch.com

How happy is my valley?

...A view from the terraces

For me, one poignant moment at the Valley a couple of months before the season ended summed up the situation at Charlton; As the whistle went to end yet another dismal home defeat, former player of the year and fans favourite Chris Solly sank to his knees, head in hands and contemplated the pitch and his plight.

It said it all; my heart went out to him. The team had done their best in extremely trying circumstances, but it wasn't enough. Nowhere near.

They trooped off, shoulders slumped to, I suspect, a very silent dressing room. What was there to say? Anyone connected to the club knows what's wrong, from the players to us fans. And nothing can be done about it until the current ownership changes.

We've been relegated. No surprise there. The fact that we managed to keep going so long speaks volumes for the dedication and commitment of a side who must have known what fate had written for them long before the final whistle.

In stats terms it's a grim read: Played 46, won nine, drawn 13 and lost 24. Hard to pick many positives out of that. There were one or two convincing wins and a few outstanding performances. Lookman is a very talented youngster and there are rumours that Liverpool is leading a pack of premiership clubs keen to sign him up. We'll do well to hold onto him in Division One.

There has been a serious player clear out. With six

different managers/coaches in two years, Charlton has acquired a plethora of players, some good, others not quite up to scratch. Many have come from overseas from one of the five European clubs multi-millionaire owner Roland Duchatelet runs. They have formed part of his scheme to swap players from club to club to maximise value. Unfortunately it doesn't mean you maximise quality. There has been no consistency in management strategy, on or off the pitch.

What has been so disappointing has been the way the club has conducted itself. Chief executive, Katrien Meire has been disrespectful to the fans and shown scant passion for the club as a footballing unit. Repeated attempts to get Duchatelet to recognise the anger and disenchantment have gone unacknowledged. Protests including the procession of a coffin to the ground, sponge balls thrown onto the pitch and constant chanting, have failed to spur him into doing the only thing possible to get Charlton back to winning ways – to sell the club to someone who might be prepared to make the investment to get us back to winning ways.

After the last game – a drab 0–0 draw with bottom team Bolton – Ms Meire issued an apology and ironically thanked the fans. Few will draw any comfort from that. Now we have to rebuild. Charlton have ended speculation on a new head of football by appointing 55-year-old ex Cardiff boss Russell Slade. He joins the club after a 20-year career in management and overall has been in charge of more than 800 league games. His new contract as manager is for a three-year term, which should bring some much-needed stability to the Valley. At a press conference at the ground he said he was already looking at new players and was aiming to see Charlton finish in the top six. COYR's!

Squeeze doubt!

So many fans turned up to the latest Squeeze secret gig at the White Swan in Charlton, that there was a worry they wouldn't all get in. But the carpets, chairs and tables were pushed back and everyone packed in to enjoy another evening of great music from Charlton's own top band. The event was to mark the band's return from a triumphant tour of Japan, their first live show in that country for 18 years. Charlton fans have their crongers fished for a return event.

**The German Master Baker will be visiting
Wellington Gardens (opposite No.84) in his
mobile shop**



Alternate Saturdays between 08.45—9.10am

I heard it on the Grapevine

Community interest groups

Book group

We continue to meet about every six weeks, and recently read Kazuo Ishiguro's new novel *The Buried Giant*, which sparked some interesting debate. We've set ourselves the winner of the Man Booker International Prize next, *The Vegetarian* by Han Kang, and then Jonathan Franzen's *Purity*, a 600-pager, but we've got all summer. In October we will focus on the Man Booker shortlist. Membership is currently closed, but if you would like to go on the waiting list, or even set up your own group, do contact Zoe on zoe31well@hotmail.com.

Singing Group

Since singing at the Spring Social in April, the group has given two further performances, both at Mycenae House. We continue to meet once a fortnight and the remaining dates for the summer are: 30 June, 11, 25 July. We always 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.

Music Group ('SE7')

Members of the group provided music for the Spring Social and the Big Lunch and we have also hosted two more evenings at Cattleya, with another to follow in July. We have one more session before the summer, on 18 July. We are always interested in gaining new members, especially players of melody instruments. Music reading is not essential. If you are interested in joining, whatever your level of experience or expertise, please contact Chris on 020 8858 7377.

Knit and Natter

There are only two sessions left (28 June, 26 July in St Richard's Hall, 2–4pm) before we take a summer break. The group were delighted to be featured in Rowan Wool's April Newsletter - read it online at knitrowan.com. Our sponsorship with Rowan has enabled us to provide 'snuggle bunnies', booties/mitts and blankets for QE's neo-natal unit. Whether you are a complete beginner or an experienced knitter come along for good knitting and excellent nattering. Look out for the posting of new dates.

Walking group

Our Mayday visit to Scadbury Park found it bathed in warm sunshine and a beautiful picture of wild

flowers. On 29 May, Ann Dingsdale led a walk in Greenwich and Blackheath visiting sites connected with signatories of the original petition for women's suffrage, 150 years ago.

All our future walks will be on the **SECOND SUNDAY** of each month, the next one on 10 July, meeting at Charlton Station at 10am.

Playing out update

Playing out in Sundorne Road is proving very successful. Even on rainy afternoons children have turned out to enjoy the freedom that the space offers. Parents support their children and gather round for tea and coffee. Stewards would like to give a big thank you to motorists who have been courteous and patient. Sundorne Road is closed to through traffic on alternate Wednesdays after school (29 June; 13, 27 July). Bring your children along from around 3.30pm.

Charlton Community Gardens

Many thanks to everyone who supported our two sales in May and June. All profits go back into the garden. We now have a container at the station for unwanted plastic plant pots which we can recycle. We are also meeting Council officers to discuss a community orchard in Charlton Park. Do join us at our summer Gardening Parties at Charlton station: Sunday 3 July, 2–4pm and Wednesday 20 July, 5–7pm; or help us at 9am on Thursday, 30 June with a quick station garden tidy up before the RHS In Your Neighbourhood judges arrive. We hope to repeat last year's top rating of Outstanding.

The Old Cottage Coffee Shop

A traditional tea shop serving high quality tea, coffee & snacks

Open everyday from 10am in Charlton Park



*Closes 4pm in winter
and 5pm in summer*