

Dates for your diary

Saturday 10 December

CCRA Family Christmas Social

4-7pm St Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road

Full details on page 1

Tuesday 13 December

Monday 19 December

Carol singing

6.45pm from 26 Wellington Gardens

Full details on page 1

Wednesday 14 December

Playing out in Sundorne Road

3.45pm onwards

Parents are responsible for their children

Saturday 25 February

Family Ceilidh (details to be confirmed)

St Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road

Membership: CCRA needs you!

The year end approaches and that means it's time to renew your CCRA membership. If you haven't joined before you really should this year! We're now into our 10th year – it's our tenth birthday on 19 September. And the coming year promises to be a bumper one – watch out for lots of celebratory events.

Throughout the 10 years we've held membership at a mere £5. If you're an existing member all you have to do is stick a fiver in an envelope with your name and address and drop it in at 7 Elliscombe Road or 49 Delafield Road.

If you haven't joined before you can find a membership form at <http://www.charltonresidents.org/membership>. If you have any queries send them to membership@charltonresidents.org.

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 16 January. Alternatively, phone Joy Ogden on 0208 293 3034 or Bob Smith on 0208 853 2697

A day in the life of an MP



CCRA were delighted to have Matthew Pennycook as a guest speaker at our AGM. Matthew began the evening by talking about his work since becoming our MP. He responded to questions on subjects that included: air quality, the riverside development, Jeremy Corbyn's leadership, governance of NHS Trusts and facilities at Our Lady of Grace School.

Matthew produces a regular monthly parliamentary e-newsletter. It is non-party political and covers national and local issues that affect our constituency. You can get this by visiting Matthew's website: www.matthewpennycook.com

Air quality - call to action!

In the last edition of Grapevine, we put out a plea for contributions to be earmarked to help us carry out a third air quality survey in February 2017. Each diffusion tube costs £9. If you'd like to contribute there will be a collecting box at the Christmas Social or contact chair@charltonresidents.org

Playing out

Playing out in Sundorne Road continues to be popular – children are enjoying torches and flashing balls in the twilight gloom.

There will be a session on 14 December. In the New Year, sessions will begin again on 11 January. Sessions will continue to begin after school around 3.30pm or 3.45pm but will be a little less regular and probably a little shorter in the cold months, so sessions will be held on 8 February and 8 March. We need five stewards for every session and we always need more. The more volunteers we have the easier it is on them, so if you could volunteer please contact Linda on 020 8858 7377





CHARLTON GRAPEVINE

VINTAGE 40 ☁ December 2016
The newsletter of the Charlton Central Residents Association

Reasons to be jolly...

Winter is upon us and the weathermen predict it could be a white Christmas. So wrap up warm and take care. It's some six years since the old weatherboard house on Charlton Road was last in Christmas card splendour, but if predictions come true then the 1695 cottage could once again be under a mantle of the white stuff.

CCRA is looking forward to the festive season with optimism and here are some of the reasons for us all to be jolly: Our annual Christmas Social takes

place on Saturday 10 December at St Richard's Hall in Swallowfield Road. The doors open at 4pm, and there are retail opportunities for everyone with a raffle, tombola, music and refreshments available until 7pm. We would love to see you there.

Our carol singers will be coming to your front door soon bringing a little festive spirit to SE7 – come and join them on Tuesday 13 December and Monday 19 December. Everyone is welcome. They meet at 26

STOP PRESS

Don't miss CCRA's Christmas Social on Saturday 10 December at St Richard's Hall. Doors open at 4pm. There'll be a raffle, tombola, music and refreshments available until 7pm. (see page 8)

Wellington Gardens at 6.45pm, singing begins at 7pm and there are refreshments for all at the end of the evening. If you can't join in, we hope you will enjoy listening and give generously for local charities.



...and you can help us


Our streets are currently littered with leaves and snow may be on the way so our pavements can become a hazard. In parts of Germany, Canada and elsewhere residents take responsibility for the pavement outside their home, clearing

leaves, litter and snow. Could you help keep your pavement clear of hazards? A little community spirit can go a long way to improving our environment. So get those brooms out and make a difference.

Dark for dark business...

Now the dark nights are upon us please be mindful of winter security. There is often a spike in opportunistic burglaries in the run up to Christmas as heartless thieves look out for easy pickings. Darkness is the friend of the thief so make sure the rear of your property is safe and secure. Close your curtains when it gets dark and do not leave goods on view through windows or leave them visible in your car. If you see anything suspicious ring 999, 101 or tell the Safer Neighbourhood Team on 0208 721 2734.

❁ The Grapevine editorial team would like to wish all our readers a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.



Dogs can drive you ‘barking’

Are you constantly disturbed by a barking or whining dog? Does it disturb your sleep? Often nothing is done because those suffering are reluctant to approach the dog owner and there are one or two cases in our area where both the dog and the owner are aggressive. But collectively we can do something about this.

Barking might come naturally to dogs but in law a barking dog can be a noise nuisance. The owners can be taken to court if they do nothing to stop the nuisance. The Royal Borough of Greenwich takes noise nuisance very seriously and will act if it receives reports. You can report noise nuisance by calling 0208 921 8921 at the following times: 9am–5pm Monday to Friday. 7pm–1am Sunday to Thursday. 7pm–2am Friday to Saturday.

This service is for reports when the noise is actually happening and an officer will visit to gather evidence. You can also make a noise complaint online outside these times at: https://www.royal-greenwich.gov.uk/site/xfp/scripts/xforms_form.php?formID=240&language=en

You don't have to worry about confronting an aggressive owner as RBG treats all noise complaints in the strictest confidence and will never disclose your details to the dog owner.

Don't be driven barking mad – do something about it. If there are several complaints about the same dog then something will be done.

Mobile phones

A resident recently stood outside Charlton station and within an hour saw 26 cars coming down Charlton Church Lane with drivers on their mobile phones. This is especially worrying given the number of pedestrians, especially children going to school, who cross the road between Sainsbury's and the station. One lapse in concentration by a driver could result in a serious accident. This could be a fatality waiting to happen. Recently court cases have illustrated the dangers of illegally driving whilst on the phone. STOP NOW if you indulge in this dangerous habit and let's keep our neighbourhood safe.

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Cattleya's 10th Birthday

Cattleya (formerly Chu and Cho) on Charlton Church Lane is a great favourite with Charlton residents. You can drop in for a drink, eat in – a snack or a full meal, meet up with friends and neighbours or just order a takeaway and enjoy a delicious green curry or pad thai at home.

The Thai food is great – but there's a twist - you can also order tapas. When Nitaya took over the restaurant she continued to serve the Spanish food served by the previous owner in addition to the Thai menu. A particular favourite for chocoholics is the Spanish churros and chocolate (hence the previous name of Chu and Cho). If you've never had chu and cho it's a small bowl of hot thick chocolate – into which you dip strips of deep fried doughnut-like batter - yummy!

Families, couples, music lovers and football fans can all enjoy an evening here. In fact local resident band SE7 play there on Sunday evenings once a month. Watch out for details.

On Saturday 5 November Cattleya celebrated its tenth anniversary. Cattleya is the Thai word for orchid so it was no surprise that the restaurant and the cake were decorated with orchids. It was a very colourful occasion. Tables and chairs were cleared away to make way for standing room around atmospheric tables which magically changed colour.

It was a ticket only event and those who had bought tickets were treated to champagne and delicious canapés. There was magnificent music from the Los

Dawsons who managed to get many partygoers and staff up and dancing. There was a grand raffle where the first prize was a trip to Thailand – the prize going to a Cattleya regular, a Charlton fan who has (as yet) never been to Thailand.

The highlight was a multi layered cake which had well-known local groups such as CCRA and Charlton Athletic iced on the top. The owner, Nitaya, and her staff thanked everyone for their support. CCRA wishes Cattleya well. Long may this precious local asset keep going - for years to come.

CCRA is nearly as old as Cattleya. We will be celebrating our 10th anniversary in September 2017. Watch this space for details of a range of exciting events to celebrate the occasion.



Cattleya's owner Nitaya with her young friend Abby celebrate the restaurant's 10th birthday, and right an orchid-decorated birthday cake



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



Every Saturday between 08.45—9.10am

Furry friends or should we give them the brush off?

Urban foxes may look cute, and some people like to feed them, but they have become a problem all over London. In the CCRA area, residents report damage to fences, gardens, plants and hedges; and a fox killed a family pet in front of its owner.

Control is problematic. The fox is not classed as vermin and is protected under a series of wildlife laws. Also, they self-regulate numbers and if one fox is removed, another will take its territory. The best control method is deterrence, and this is linked to cutting off the food supply. Please dispose of food waste securely and do not put food out for the foxes.

Sprinkling chilli or curry powder around plants does not harm the animals but might stop foxes digging and there are branded products said to act as a deterrent. Clearing undergrowth from alleys and pathways could also reduce the fox's sense of security by getting rid of the 'cover' they need.

Various websites (including The Fox Project, Foxolutions and Fox-a-Gon) offer advice.
www.thefoxwebsite.net/faq/urbanfoxproblems
www.wildlifegardener.co.uk/foxesinthegarden

... and do squirrels drive you nuts?

Squirrels, like foxes, look appealing. However, anyone who enjoys their garden will have strong feelings about squirrels' habit of eating bulbs. They enjoy digging holes in lawns, flowerbeds and pots, burying food, including in many local gardens – hens' eggs. Suggestions for deterring them from eating bulbs include covering the soil with chicken wire or holly



leaves. Some people sprinkle chilli powder, Tabasco sauce or grated soap where bulbs are planted. Soaking bulbs in paraffin prior to planting is also said to deter them.

And watch out if they get into your loft! You'll probably need professional advice to get rid of them if that happens but try looking at the following websites:
www.aaanimalcontrol.com/
www.dudleynews.co.uk/newsxtra/homegard/4180440.Simple_ways_to_repel_nuisance_squirrels/

New future planned for Anchor & Hope Lane

To date, no formal planning application has been made, but developers have been holding Drop-In sessions about a proposed scheme on the eastern side of Anchor & Hope Lane on the present industrial estate. It would include 900-1000 residential units and open space, along with 'a balanced mix of uses'. However, in outlining building heights, including blocks of up to 13, 14 and 16 storeys and one of 24-26 storeys, it is not in line with the existing 2012 Charlton Riverside Masterplan.

There is concern that developers are presenting the scheme as being entirely in line with a new Masterplan, but this is still in the process of being written. CCRA has taken this up with Greenwich Council and been told that a revised Draft Charlton Riverside Masterplan is now expected to be published for consultation early in 2017. We hope to have further information in the next issue.

Although the site is outside the CCRA catchment, the huge expansion planned for Charlton Riverside will impact on us all. The necessary infrastructure will not be in place from the beginning, and there will be consequences for Charlton residents living south of the Woolwich Road.

TARINI YOGA

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WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
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Discover the Lido, our cool pool



As Grapevine readers who swim at Charlton Lido know, we are fortunate to have one of London's few remaining outdoor pools right here in Hornfair Park.

It offers year-round open-air swimming in a heated, Olympic-sized pool, and in this, the third winter since it re-opened, more and more people are discovering what a joy it is to swim under the sky, whatever the weather: it's never cold once you're in the water. The Lido was originally opened on 6 May 1939 by the Mayor of Greenwich but fell into disrepair and was at risk of being lost to the borough forever until leisure social enterprise GLL stepped in to save it. More recently the Lido was preserved for future generations with an extensive £5 million refurbishment and re-opened in 2013 with the addition of a state-of-the-art-gym as the Charlton Lido & Lifestyle Club. The club now boasts a Fitness Centre, Studio, Café & Sun Terraces.

If you've never visited the Lido, try a dip on a sunny winter's morning when steam rises from the water, or a twilight swim under the floodlights as the sun sets – you'll never want to want to swim indoors again! If you'd like to give the Lido a try, but would prefer

to visit for the first time with a regular user, contact Rosemary on 07974 450138 or email charlton.lido.friends@gmail.com.

If you're already a convert and would be interested in joining a Friends of Charlton Lido user group, please email Rosemary on the address above.

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A photograph of a modern interior space, likely a showroom. It features large windows with dark frames and white shutters. The room is furnished with a sofa, armchairs, and a coffee table. A lamp is visible on a side table.

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How happy is my valley?

...A view from the terraces

It's the sack race once again down at The Valley and this time the recipient of the trophy is Russell Slade, ousted after only six months and 14 games in charge. That's now seven managers in the two and a half years that Roland Duchatelet has been in charge. Four more and he could set up the unenviable Ex Charlton Managers eleven. Maybe they could do better than their protégés.

It's not been a great time for Slade when you scan the stats, but it's not been that bad either.

As I write we've played 17, won 5, drawn 8 and lost 4 giving us a reasonable 23 points that places us 14th.

More interestingly, a couple of wins would see us in a play-offs place, so you can't say Slade was sliding.

I think it was the defeat at Swindon on 12 November that brought about his demise. It was a 0-3

hammering in which the manager admitted post-match that his team hadn't really turned up. The

manner of the loss was enough for Roland to get out his axe again. He'd already brought in Chris

O'Loughlin who watched a match from the stands recently. That was ominous for Slade because

O'Loughlin had been boss of Sint-Truiden – yes you've guessed it – one of Duchatelet's Belgian

teams. And he's now on the coaching staff. Pundits (me included) think Slade's sacking was a

bad decision. Slade might well point out that his top three players, Lookman, Holmes and Magennis

were all out injured, which is worrying if the team are having to rely on just three players to carry them. But the following Saturday Charlton beat Port Vale 2-0 at the Valley. Then three days later, in their best away result for three years, they gave promotion chasing Bristol Rovers a 0-5 thrashing.

It could well be argued that Slade has put in place a decent squad who have the makings of promotion and that the Swindon result was just one of those things. Now we'll never know.

Final choice to take up the poisoned chalice was Karl Robinson, the former boss of MK Dons. He has

a good record in the English league and we can only hope that he gets a fair crack of the whip. Against

Vale Slade's assistant Kevin Nugent oversaw the win and he remains at the Valley as an assistant.

Fans have been vocal in their continued protests against Duchatelet and in the meantime the players

have to carry on in that difficult place, the corridor of uncertainty, a venue unlikely to bring about continuity

of play. They need to be reassured before they step onto the hallowed turf instead of wondering who is

coming and going both on and off the pitch.

Mature reflection tells me that we have been in a spectrum of decline ever since Alan Curbishley left the club. But we remain upper mid-table and poised

to go on to greater things. I remain an optimist. Crongers fished for renaissance. COYR's!

A flying start

Charlton's new transport campaign group got off to a flying start at its launch in October. **Transport for Charlton** (formerly Charlton Rail Users Group) welcomed representatives from Southeastern Railways, Transport for London (TfL), the Campaign for Better Transport, and Greenwich Line Users Group (GLUG) to a lively meeting with people from across Charlton. Highlights were: a presentation by Richard Dean of Southeastern; ideas for making journeys to central London easier during the current disruption; and improvements to bus services. There was also the promise of a new coffee outlet at the station! More information to follow, and a fuller record of the event is available at the TfC website transportforcharlton.wordpress.com or email tfcharlton@outlook.com or via Twitter or Facebook using @tfCharlton.



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I heard it on the Grapevine

Book group

The book group sets itself the Booker Challenge each year. Between us we read the six shortlisted books, and see if we can predict the winner. We rarely get it right - this year was no exception. And the winner was.....Paul Beatty's *The Sellout*. The critics thought this 'brilliant satire... was an exhilarating ride'. We felt it didn't 'speak' to us, and was similar to last year's winner which, coincidentally, was from the same publishing house.

To anyone wanting a good read before Christmas we'd recommend:

His Bloody Project - the Amazon best-seller from the list, and very much the people's choice; *Do Not Say We Have Nothing* - a poetic page-turner covering a period of great upheaval in China, and tipped by the bookies to win - it's not just us that doesn't get it right! Or get in quick with Eileen, another we enjoyed, before it's made into a film! End of November sees us reading *Golden Hill* by Francis Spufford - a frolicsome first novel....

Knit and Natter

The knitting group have been beaver away with lots of Christmas gifts for the babies at Queen Elizabeth's neo-natal unit. The bears, blankets, snuggly bunnies and hats are always gratefully received and help to make Christmas special for these very special babies. We are especially grateful to our sponsors, Rowan Wool, who have again kindly donated some wonderful soft yarns to the group. Many of our projects would not be possible without this sponsorship. Whether a beginner or an expert come along to our sessions and learn something new or indulge in some excellent nattering. Forthcoming dates are: Tuesdays (2pm-4pm) 31 January, 28 February, 28 March and 18 April at St Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road. Come and join us!

Walking group

We've been out and about enjoying the company and the delightful autumn weather. The 950th Anniversary celebrations of the Battle of Hastings coincided with our October walk so we took ourselves to Westminster to see off the 1066 Marchers on their London leg of the march from Stamford Bridge to Battle.

Never underestimate CCRA's walkers! Despite a note that November's walk might be a bit more challenging no-one was daunted by its steep incline, slippery wooded decline and slightly longer walk from Dulwich Village over the Common and through Sydenham

Nature Reserve.

Our next walks will be on Sunday, 11 December and on 8 January. Just turn up at our meeting place at Charlton Station at 10.30am on the second Sunday of each month or email Jill on jillmo@btinternet.com to be included on the monthly email list.

Singing group

We have been meeting fortnightly on Mondays, and our final session this year will be on 5 December. However, this is not the end of our activities for the year, as we will be singing at the CCRA Christmas Social on 10 December. We will follow this with two nights of carol singing around our area, on 13 & 19 December, raising money for local charities. These are open to everyone, so come and join us at 26 Wellington Gardens for a prompt 7pm start. The group will resume in January (dates to be announced soon) but in the meantime if you would like to join us contact Chris on 020 8858 7377.

Music Group ('SE7')

The group meets on alternate Mondays, and we have also played regularly at Cattleya, in Charlton Church Lane. We will be providing music for the CCRA Christmas Social on 10 December, and for a Christmas Party at Cattleya later in the month (date tba). We are always interested in gaining new members and would especially like to hear from players of melody instruments - strings, woodwind or brass. Music reading is not essential. If you are interested in joining the group, whatever your level of experience or expertise, please contact Chris on 020 8858 7377.

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