

CHARLTON GRAPEVINE

VINTAGE 49 ☁ September 2018
The newsletter of the Charlton Central Residents Association

Coming up Roses in Charlton's Open Gardens



June's Open Gardens offered four totally different Charlton gardens to visit, on a wonderfully sunny Sunday afternoon. The event was well attended, friends and neighbours socialising, with drinks, while wandering around very varied and fascinating gardens. Thank you to all the hosts. A donation of £60 was raised from the visitors, going towards the costs of printing the CCRA's magazine Grapevine.

It's showtime!

Get your entries in to be sure of a chance to win

Less than two weeks to go now before our seventh annual Flower, Produce and Craft Show and in case you needed a reminder... the picture of the floral display in the Open Gardens above should get you in the mood.

The number of entries over the years has, like the flowers and produce, grown steadily and, with such a warm summer, it promises to be a bumper show.

There are many different categories to have a go at, whether jam and chutney making is your speciality or you prefer baking, craftwork or photography. And there are plenty of opportunities for young people to take part too.

Details were published in the last issue of Grapevine and can be found on the website (charltonresidents.net). The show takes place, as usual, at St Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road on Saturday, 15 September. Drop your entries off between 8.00 am and 10.45 am. The hall reopens at 2.15 when there will be prizes for

the top exhibits, but by joining in you have already become a winner. We hope to see you there.

In the evening, following the Show, you can join friends and neighbours at CCRA's Hygge Night in the garden of 28a Wellington Gardens starting at 7.30pm. This is a members' only event and tickets will be £10 (children under 12 free), in advance, message events@charltonresidents.org on Facebook or Twitter or on the door, (bring your membership cards with you if you can find them!)

There will hot soups (veggie and non-veggie) and bread to eat, along with warm drinks such as hot chocolate and mulled wine, and of course good company. There will be big blankets available to keep you warm, as well as hot water bottles, and outdoor sources of heating.

STOP PRESS

Come and get cozy! There's a Hygge Night planned for the evening of the Flower and Produce Show. It promises to be a chilled out evening. What is it? Full details are in the main story on this page.

The Danish word "Hygge" that inspired this event, describes a concept of living, creating warmth, connection and well-being, and in our case, within the soothing surroundings of a neighbour's garden!

✿ Don't miss CCRA's AGM Thursday 4 October, 7.30pm at St Richard's Hall followed by a meeting with your local councillors (for details see page 2)

Make your choice and have your say

On Thursday 4 October, CCRA will hold its 11th Annual General Meeting at St Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road. Doors will open at 7.15pm for a prompt start at 7.30pm. We aim to get through the fixed agenda (shown below) as efficiently as possible. Around 8.15pm residents will have an opportunity to provide CCRA committee members with their thoughts and ideas for the next 10 years. From about 8.45pm our ward councillors Gary Parker, and newcomers Linda Perks and Gary Dillon will meet up with residents. This is your chance to ask questions and find out what their current priorities are. If you have any issues you want to raise about local matters, then this is your opportunity to do so. The evening will end around 9.30pm.

AGENDA

1. Welcome and introduction
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, 5 October 2017. These are available on the CCRA website (charltonresidents.net) or from the Chair 07823777152
4. Matters arising
5. Report from the Chair 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 require a two thirds majority and must have been submitted in writing to the Chair (chair@charltonresidents.org or 4 Delafield Road) by Thursday 14 September.
9. Election of officers: Chair, Vice-chair, Secretary and Treasurer. Nominations for officers must be submitted in writing, proposed and seconded, to the Chair, Jodie Coughlan, 4 Delafield Road or chair@charltonresidents.org by 8.00 pm on Thursday 28 September.
10. Election of management committee (MC). Please consider joining MC or nominate a neighbour. We need active members to enhance the work of CCRA. Nominations can be submitted to chair@charltonresidents.org in advance or you can sign up on the night.
11. Resolutions: These require a two thirds majority and written submission must be submitted to the Chair by Thursday, 13 September.
12. Any other business.

Everyone in the CCRA area can attend the AGM and the rest of the evening but only paid up full members can vote, make nominations or submit resolutions. Those attending may join the Association on the night. Associate members are not eligible to vote.



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Sing a Song of Satisfaction...

Some people who joined the CCRA singing group have been sharing their views about the special joys of singing together, which they believe unites people in a harmonious spirit of friendship and community. Chris Harrison, who runs the group, is central to that experience, they say.

Jill says: "I thoroughly enjoy going to CCRA's singing group – I feel so uplifted after each session and can't work out why it has that effect. I put off joining at first as I believed I couldn't sing and feared having an audition. But there was none of that – just a big welcome and great tolerance of my efforts! I think my elation might come from a combination of having a good leader, a relaxed atmosphere, being part of a team and attempting new and sometimes tricky arrangements. Oh, and did I mention the music? I recently discovered how music touches those parts of the brain that other things can't – however that works, it has a wonderful effect – but I also think it's something to do with being involved with the music rather than just listening to it. I'd recommend anyone to come and give it a try – a great legal high!"

Georgina feels much the same, and says: "For me it's about being part of the community. I've always loved to sing and when I found there was a local singing group I was very happy. I felt immediately welcomed and over the last four years I've met many local residents, which has helped me root myself into the community and gives me a sense of belonging.

"I find Chris an inspirational leader, who is interested in



Singing group leader Chris Harrison at the piano

many different music genres, and the tone is very informal. We sing for the sake of singing and to do that together with others is very uplifting."

Liz, equally enthusiastic, says: "The CCRA singing group provides a wonderful, regular, social focus for those of us who enjoy singing, whatever our personal level of ability!

"Chris has a vast repertoire of songs for us, but we also bring our own choice and celebrate many seasonal occasions, so there's something for everyone. There are always refreshments, and time to socialise, which enhances the evening so we all leave feeling uplifted and happy."

Robert agrees and says: "The singing group has greatly enriched the local community. It's fantastic that it provides an opportunity for singers of all standards to take part, and enjoy regular sessions as well as opportunities to perform. We are very fortunate to have highly talented and committed people locally who run and organise these sessions and events."

Cleaner and greener

Throughout the Summer, working together as friends and residents, we have been improving unloved sites around the area. Phase 3 of the greening project focused on the alley at the end of Delafield Road, behind Valley Café. This often attracts antisocial behaviour, fly tipping and littering, but now thanks to residents' efforts looks very well cared for. A group weeded, levelled the soil, installed a gate, painted the wall, added some attractive leaf trellis, and ensured the drain to the homes remains uncovered and accessible. Thanks to all involved for their collective effort, donations and time.

Community volunteers

It was Triple WIN here in Charlton Central on Community

Day on 7 July. Besides the football, our area was a winner! About 20 volunteers turned out with litter pickers, brooms and loppers to clean and green: they cut back the suckers on Calydon, tidied the area around St Richard's and put up new No Cold Caller/Rogue Trader Zone signs. Wendy Barington made a scrumptious lunch, backed by her tireless helpers. Particular thanks are due to the council staff who provided equipment, removed rubbish and were supportive throughout.

Two more sites we were unable to complete in the intensely hot weather still need love and attention. If you are interested in lending a hand with these or the other sites, get in touch with Jodie Coughlan: chair@charltonresidents.org.

We're watching you!

Residents send a stark message to rogue traders

After listening to experts from Greenwich Trading Standards and Greenwich Victim Support, members of CCRA decided they had suffered enough. So members of Charlton Central Neighbourhood Watch (CCNW) launched the No Cold Callers Campaign back in April with a view to reducing the number of salespeople knocking on doors in the area. You may have noticed a number of No Cold Caller street signs have appeared at the end of your road. An intrepid band of Neighbourhood Watchers put them up, with council agreement, on our hot Community Day in July. The aim is to deter door-to-door sellers from coming into our area. Hopefully you are already seeing the effects of this with fewer strangers knocking on your doors.

To ensure continued success we need your help. In the last edition of Grapevine you should have received a small yellow and black sticker. If you look along your road you will see some members have already stuck them by or on their front doors. There is a number on it for you to ring if a Cold Caller will not leave after you ask them to do so and if you have any concerns you want to relay to RBG Trading Standards.

Tests have shown those who have already put theirs up are getting far fewer cold callers. We encourage residents to display their sticker. If you need a replacement ask your

Street Coordinator. We would welcome feedback from residents on their experience of Cold Callers and how this scheme is helping to deal with the problem. We regularly update CCNW members with details of anyone who is knocking on doors in the area without good intent.

You can join the scheme and receive our Instant alerts and regular Updates by contacting us through <http://ccnwatch.org> where you will find a list of Coordinators and how to contact them. If you are already signed up, remember to contact us by replying to emails and let us know you still want to subscribe.

Also, please get in touch if you would like to become more active in our campaigning and/or you wish to tell us what issues are affecting you and your safety.



Residents underline the warning to cold callers

Electric car charging

A ban on the sale of all new petrol and diesel fuelled cars from 2040 is among the range of government initiatives designed to improve air quality. That's a long way off, but already sales of electric cars are taking off. While just four years ago, approximately 400 electric vehicles were sold each month, this year the monthly figure is closer to 4,500. Worries about the difficulties involved in charging an electric car is something that prevents many people considering such a purchase. In addition to charging points in car parks, etc, the Royal Borough of Greenwich (RBG) has set up 22 highway sited charging points, of which just five are rapid charging points that will charge a vehicle in around 30 minutes. Recently RBG carried out a consultation to determine where to place an additional six or seven charging points this year. These will be fitted to existing lampposts in order to remove the need to run cables from homes across pavements. Using lampposts will also mean that further street furniture will be unnecessary. An announcement on the positioning of these additional charging points is expected soon.

The borough hopes to receive more funding next year to further increase the number and locations of charging points. Zap-map's website (www.zap-map.com) gives details of all charging points in our area but you have to register to access it.

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Your Arts in the Right Place

For some time, a group of artists have been using premises at the riverside end of Warspite Road. The scale of the development at Thames-Side Studios is astonishing. Four hundred and seventy people now rent mostly purpose-built studios and workspaces of different shapes and sizes with 30 more places due to be set up.

There are potters and painters and picture frame makers, a whole kaleidoscope of creative talents, far too numerous to list. Just look at their website (www.thames-sidestudios.co.uk) where it is claimed that this is the biggest such centre in the country.

It's all very well organised and business-like – for most people there it's about earning a living or supplementing part-time income. There are spaces and facilities for enthusiasts from the wider community and for school groups. These include a gallery which hosts exhibitions from Thursday to Sunday most weeks in the year; an education centre, and a dark room for photographers.

The Thames-Side Print Studio has excellent facilities and offers courses for experienced printmakers and beginners including school groups. There are prints for sale and they can undertake digital printing for you. If you're interested phone 020 8316 5522 or visit www.thames-sidestudios.co.uk/print-studios

Hundreds of people visited the studios during the Open Weekend in June. In addition, now that the Thames Riverside path has been extended, many more people have discovered the studios. They've also found the Arts Café, one of several around the site (including the Riverside Café serving Ethiopian food from 9 to 9) – open everyday from 10 to 5. If you want to sample one of their meals you have to turn up before 4.00 – otherwise you'll have to make do with tea and cake!

It's official! You can walk the Thames to Crayford

The Thames Path extension near the Thames Barrier is now open. Now you can walk on from the official path ending at the Thames Barrier all the way to Crayford Ness where the Thames and the River Darent meet, adding an extra ten miles to the journey. Check the website for full details of the walk (www.thamespath.org.uk/thames-charlton_crayford.html).

Thameslink Core...

The new Thameslink train routes for 2018 mean that trains



Views of the river from the Arts Café

can now go between London Bridge, London Blackfriars and Kings Cross St Pancras, which some people now refer to as the 'Thameslink Core'.

First the good news: Thameslink introduced a temporary timetable in mid July, which means that the new service from Charlton station to London St Pancras International (scheduled to take 33 minutes) and to Luton Airport (scheduled to take 1hr 16 minutes from Charlton), has become much more reliable. Now to the bad news: there is only one train an hour on this route instead of the two that were promised on the (less reliable) timetable that was introduced at the end of May.

The Charlton line goes through London Blackfriars and Farringdon on its way to Kings Cross St Pancras and through Dartford, Gravesend, Strood, Rochester, Chatham, Gillingham and Rainham, Kent, in the other direction.

Crossrail is due to start running east-west across London later this year, connecting with the Thameslink route at Farringdon. Full Crossrail services, including services to Heathrow, are scheduled to start in late 2019.

Some services will continue to be subject to disruption on some weekends and bank holidays throughout 2018, so it is wise to check before you travel.

The Old Cottage Coffee Shop

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

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and 5pm in summer*

How happy is my Valley?

...A view from the terraces

It was supposed to be the dawn of a new era for Charlton. The deal was virtually done, the new owners – and new manager – in place. Ricocheting rumours rattled round the Valley like gunfire as those on the inside track spoke of Roland Duchatelet's plan to rid himself of his English side and flog it off to an Australian consortium.

As last season closed everyone spoke of the impending announcements. Exciting times were ahead. Which is why it is hard to credit where we are at the start of the new season with everything still up in the air and nothing resolved.

No new owners and Lee Bowyer still unconfirmed as manager. Just how frustrating can it get for all concerned? How can we expect our players to commit totally when those above them seem incapable of doing it themselves? The Aussies, after due diligence was done, walked away from the deal unhappy with the terms, leaving us right back at square one.

Yet the Boys have got off to a good start. They were just denied a draw at Sunderland in the 96th minute of their opening match. (How many times did that scenario play out last season?) Then they took on nemesis team Shrewsbury for the first home match and beat them in a tough game which saw Les Garcons snatch a 91st minute winner. What was particularly pleasing was how the new squad responded to Bowyer and his tough, no nonsense style of managing.

Hamstrung by limited funds he chose to buy in few players but those he did select are already proving their

worth. The proof came against the Shrews – who beat us three times out of four last season – new striker Lyle Taylor headed home in the 66th minute following a superb cross by academy grad George Lapslie playing in his first SE7 league start. Shrewsbury equalised after some poor defending but Bowyer, quick to respond to a lacklustre first half performance, injected new life into the side by shuffling the playing system, ousting Mark Marshall at half time and bringing on exciting youngster Albie Morgan, yet another debutant from the academy, who displayed confidence and skill beyond his 18 years and who was crucial in the build up to the second goal. His incisive pass found new signing Darren Pratley out by the corner post. Pratley defied two defenders, twisted and flipped over a pinpoint cross for resurgent Karlan Grant to run onto and flick a neat header past the keeper. Five long minutes later the whistle blew and we had our first three points of the new season.

Bowyer had little choice in selection so limited is his squad with half a dozen of the first team out injured. But the youngsters more than earned their spurs and drew plaudits from their manager.

Bowyer, speaking after the match with cautious delight, praised the two new boys for their skill and commitment: "I couldn't have asked for more from them," he said. And he went on to reveal his belief that we could achieve a top two position at the end of the season if we continue to play in the same vein.

Some of the sidelined players are due back over the next few games though injury to Jake Foster-Caskey may see him out for the season, and Bowyer still seeks new players while the loan window remains open. He feels that if he can strengthen the squad and keep that rare balance of youth and experience working well together, there is no reason why a top two finish is not possible.

I agree with him. Crongers fished. COYR's.

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PARKING CHARGES ARE BUMPED UP

From 1 August, parking charges in Greenwich have been increased. Although it's the first increase since 2011 the changes are substantial and will hit some residents hard.

For full details check what you will now have to pay on www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/parkingpermits.

I heard it on the Grapevine

Community groups

Playing out

Playing Out will be resuming after the summer break on Wednesday, 5 September and thereafter every two weeks until further notice (ie, it gets too cold and dark!). As always we welcome new attendees and volunteers to steward. If people would like to be added to the email list they should get in touch on Playingoutse7@gmail.com. Subsequent dates to remember: 19 September, 3, 17 and 31 October.

Book group

Our summer read was *A Gentleman in Moscow* – a real Marmite book. Some struggled with the detail and font size, but those who had finished it thought it was a great read. Comments included ‘charming, lilting, laced with gentle humour, with some laugh out loud moments’. Readers thought it was well researched, not necessarily sympathetic to the Russian Revolution and changes there, but looking at the impact on ordinary lives.

We enjoyed the minutiae of a man’s life set against world events, which were quite firmly outside the confines of the hotel. A couple of members declared it their Book of the Year as they just didn’t want it to end.

The next meeting is 25 September when we’ll be reading *Home Fire* by Kamila Shamsie. If you’re interested in coming along, ring Linda on 020 8858 7377. And don’t forget you can always leave unwanted books at the station bookshelf and maybe pick something out for yourself at the same time! Keep reading!

Singing group

The group resumes after the summer break on Monday, 3 September and will meet on alternate Mondays after that. The remaining dates for this year are: 17 Sept; 1, 15 & 29 Oct; 12 & 26 Nov; 10 Dec. This last session may be the first of our carol singing evenings, which are open to all. 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.

Instrumental Music Group (‘SE7’)

The group continues to meet fortnightly on Mondays. We will resume on 10 September with further sessions on 24 Sept, 8 & 22 Oct, 5 & 19 Nov, 3 Dec. We also hope to

arrange an evening at Cattleya one Sunday in September, with further sessions about once a month after that. We are always interested in gaining new members, whatever your instrument or level of experience, and reading music is not essential. If you are interested in joining the group, please contact Chris on 020 8858 7377.

Knit and Natter

As we go to press the Knit and Natter group are visiting the neo-natal unit at Queen Elizabeth Hospital to deliver more knitted gifts. We are grateful to our sponsors, Rowan Wools, for providing yarn for the baby project. The group specialises in charity knits but everyone is welcome to come along to the group with their own project.

All sessions take place 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm at St Richard’s Hall, Swallowfield Road. Dates for the Autumn Term are: 25 Sept, 30 Oct, 27 Nov and 18 Dec. You don’t even have to knit to join the group – come along for top notch nattering.

Walking group

The June walk along the Thames estuary from Leigh on Sea to Southend was a dry, fine and breezy day. Leigh is a delightful old fishing town with lots of shellfish stalls and cafes; we were fascinated by the Old Smithy, now converted into the Heritage Centre.

Our walk followed the Thames downstream passing Chalkwell and into Southend where we took a train ride on the longest pleasure pier in the world. As John Betjeman said: “the pier is Southend and Southend is the pier”.

July found us on the Thames again, noticing the new missing link in the Thames Path between the Thames Barrier and King Henry’s Wharf. We walked up Warspite Road and through shady Maryon and Maryon Wilson Parks to the ever popular Old Cottage Café, arriving back in time for CCRA’s Open Gardens event!

In August we walked through Bostall Woods and on to the 12th century abbey ruins at Lesnes where there’s a new cafe and medieval herb garden. We ended by following a nature trail on embanked land from Southmere Lake to Plumstead.

Anyone wishing to join the Walking Group should contact Jill at jillmo@btinternet.com who will send an email detailing walks. Come to those that interest you. Suggestions for walks are always very welcome.

Dates for your diary

Saturday, 15 September

St Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road

Flower and produce show

Entries to be submitted between 8.00 am and 10.45 am

Viewing and prize giving from 2.15pm

Saturday, 15 September

Hygge night 7.30-10pm

Garden of 28 Wellington Gardens

Further details on page 1

Tickets £10/ CCRA members only

Thursday 4 October

CCRA AGM and meet your local councillors

Doors open at 7.15pm

St Richard's Hall

Saturday, 17 November

Quiz Night

7.30-9.30pm St Richard's Hall

Details to be confirmed

Saturday 8 December

Christmas Social

4-7pm St Richard's Hall

Details to be confirmed

Check CCRA's website (charltonresidents.net), Twitter (@ccra_se7) and Facebook (www.facebook.com/centralcharlton) for details of past and future events.



Rockwell rocks on – not so well

After what seemed like a victory against property developer Rockwell's planning application on 9 July, there was a major blow to our community on the 13 August when London Mayor Sadiq Khan said he will be 'calling-in' the Council's refusal of the scheme.

The Mayor will now act as the scheme's planning authority since it will have a huge impact on the London Plan. There will, however, be a public hearing at City Hall.

The victory seemed certain on Monday 9 July, when members of RBG's Planning Board voted unanimously to reject Rockwell's planning application for the VIP Trading Estate, on Anchor & Hope Lane, SE7.

Of particular concern was how the Rockwell scheme failed to meet the objectives (eg lower rise developments for families) of the Council's Charlton Riverside Masterplan, a plan that cost almost £850,000 of public money, and had been subjected to wide community consultation.

Due to the number of objectors to the scheme who had registered to speak, (of which CCRA were one) we were given a strict time limit to deliver our objections.

Local MP Matthew Pennycook said the refusal sent a "clear signal to developers that the community will not accept proposals that do not honour the vision set out in the 2017 Charlton Riverside masterplan".

We will keep you posted.

Charlton Community Gardens

A big thanks to our volunteer waterers both at the station and in the community orchard who have kept the plants flourishing throughout the hot summer days. And let us know if you can join in—just carry a couple of empty plastic bottles up to Charlton Park, fill them from the taps beside the Old Cottage Café and pour down the mesh pipe at the base of the fruit tree.

That way the water goes straight to the roots and doesn't evaporate from the surface. Our trees need to grow roots in the first couple of years and we won't be expecting to harvest fruit until the third year. Please help yourself to produce that is ripe on the Station garden.

The Swiss Chard is flourishing and the tomatoes are ripening. Our community garden is by the community for the community.

www.charltoncommunitygardens.org.uk



Comments, feedback, queries or material for the next edition of *Grapevine* should be emailed to: grapevine@charltonresidents.org by Monday 12 November. Alternatively, phone Joy Ogden on 020 8293 3034 or Bob Smith on 020 8853 2697

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.

Charlton Central Residents Association