

Dates for your diary

Wednesday 23 October

Charlton Community Gardens

Open Meeting 7.00 pm, Charlton House

Saturday 9 November

CCRA Quiz Night 7.30 – 10.00, St Richard's Hall,
Swallowfield Rd. Full details page 1

Saturday 7 December

CCRA's Christmas Social 4-7pm, St Richard's
Hall Swallowfield Road. Full details in the next
Grapevine.

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Lewisham Choral Society presents:

John Rutter: Gloria, Joseph Jongen: Mass Opus 130, Ralph Vaughan-Williams: O, Clap your Hands and Percy Whitlock: Plymouth Suite (Organ Solo) with Dan Ludford-Thomas (Conductor) Saturday 16 November, 7.30pm at Great Hall, Goldsmiths College, New Cross SE14 6NW. Tickets: £18, £15, £2 (under 16's) including programme. Available from: 020 8309 0439, via website or on the door. www.lewishamchoralsociety.org.uk

IN MEMORIAM

Mrs. Joyce Millbank resident of Wellington Gardens
Died 20 October 2012
RIP mum from all your loving family, friends and neighbours.

Community garden celebrates

Come to Charlton House on Wednesday 23 October to celebrate the garden at Charlton station and to consider if the project can be taken forward on the Highcombe site. Visit with neighbours and take part in the garden quiz. There will be stalls and seed swaps for your winter garden.



www.charltonresidents.org

Central Charlton: 95% say it's SE Heaven

Did you know that a whacking 95% of CCRA residents who returned our 2012 survey thought their road was a 'good' place to live. And 93% of residents would recommend their road to others looking for a home, while a solid 90% said it was a friendly place to live. Conran's take note - CCRA residents truly love Charlton.

Our 2009 survey about travel and parking showed that 80% of residents were concerned about speeding and 78% supported a 20mph speed limit throughout the CCRA area. In 2012 only 26% of residents worried about speeding and those calling for the 20mph local limit had dropped to 68%. On behalf of CCRA residents calling for the lowered speed limit we learnt from the Council that statistics on traffic incidents/accidents, collected Borough-wide, must prove it is necessary for safety. But statistics indicate that our roads are very low risk with very few (and no serious) incidents over the last three years. The reality is that our streets are currently very safe.

Parking is a sore point for many CCRA residents. In 2012, 56% of them said the Controlled Parking Zone was necessary. CCRA organised a public meeting with the Head of Parking for Greenwich in 2011, when an angry audience contested the Council's plan to increase parking fees. We were promised better enforcement, with more Parking Attendants, but 47% of respondents to the 2012 were still unhappy with the Council's inaction, especially on match day.

CCRA will continue to monitor residents' views on travel and parking and take your concerns to the Council. If you'd like to be involved, contact Palvinder on 07984 121 761. Help keep Charlton a safe and happy place to live.

News in brief

When do you need planning permission?

Permitted development rights (ie works that do NOT require planning permission) changed on 30 May 2013, initially for a three year period. Anyone wanting to extend or make alterations to their property is strongly advised to consult the Council's Planning Department to clarify what they are and are not permitted to do. One of the rules' most relevant features applies to extensions, especially single-storey ones at the rear of the building. See our website for details: www.charltonresidents.org

Charlton Central Residents Association

CHARLTON GRAPEVINE

VINTAGE 26 ☁ OCTOBER 2013
The newsletter of the Charlton Central Residents Association



Congratulations to Charlton gardeners who hosted a fascinating afternoon of botanical exploration. Unpromising weather did not deter CCRA members from visiting many interesting garden designs from a cottage garden to a newly laid faux-grass lawn. A healthy £60 was raised for CCRA funds.

See what's in store

A new dawn of superstores and shopping sophistication awaits Charlton residents in the spring of 2015 when the Woolwich Road development comes on stream. More than 60 CCRA residents got firsthand information on site progress when they attended our annual general meeting on 7 October at St Richard's Hall.

The man in charge of the development programme, Harry Sadleir of LXB Retail Properties gave an illustrated talk on what we can expect. The main changes at the site, provisionally known as Charlton Riverside Central, will be a Sainsbury's superstore and a double storey M & S offering food, clothes, furniture, a café and even a foreign exchange facility. A third as yet unspecified store

is also planned with a 120-bed Travelodge above it.

In response to a barrage of questions, Mr Sadleir assured CCRA members that road safety was a paramount concern. There will be dedicated cycle lanes, new road configurations (including direct access from Charlton Church Lane to Bugsby's Way) and a possible new exit from Charlton Station at the west end of the platform. A 600-space car park is planned and extensive landscaping will be included.

It is hoped to ease traffic on a section of Woolwich Road by focusing access to the site on Bugsby's Way. In addition there will be three smaller local shops and a café on the Woolwich Road frontage. The Sainsbury's store will again feature environmentally friendly construction. It will reuse rainwater and there will be solar panels. Work should begin on the site in January and is expected to last 53 weeks. Further details can be obtained from our website www.charltonresidents.org. During the meeting election of officers took place. Linda Pound stood down as chair after three years along with vice-chair Len Weir and secretary Liz Somerville. David Gayther was reelected unopposed as treasurer and Ann Thwaite took over as new secretary. See page 2 for Linda's reflections as outgoing chair..

CCRA Quiz Night: Saturday, 9 November.

Doors open at 7.00, quiz starts 7.30. St Richard's Hall. Members £2, non-members £5. Non-members joining CCRA on the night will be admitted on receipt of £5 membership fee, saving £2! Refreshments available. To register or join a team, email events@charltonresidents.org or contact Linda on 020 8858 7377 or Len on 020 8858 4920. Maximum team size 8.

STOP PRESS



Christmas cracker! The Christmas social is on Saturday 7 December, St Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road 4 – 7pm. If you've got something to sell, secure a table for £5 – you keep the proceeds. Ring Linda on 020 8858 7377 or email info@charltonresidents.org

Time for reflection – and election

Charlton Central Residents' Association is entering its seventh year of operation. It was the brainchild of Dave and Elaine Picton who wanted to see a safer and friendlier community following a fire in the front garden of a neighbouring house. In the first year Colin Brown was chair. Dave Picton was chair for two years and I have just completed three years in that role. It doesn't mean the next chair will have to hold office for four years – but who knows. Since Colin and Dave and I all live in Wellington Gardens, it's probably time that one of our other twelve streets got a look in. It has been a great privilege to work with our community over the past six years. I intend to remain actively involved in everything that's going on in Central Charlton. The association continues to flourish, planning social events and community clean-ups, liaising with council officers and our local councillors, local police and shops, and with other neighbourhood organisations. It has been great to work with the members of the management committee who generously give their time and energy

Lynchpin:
Linda Pound,
and partner
Chris.
After three
committed
years, Linda
is standing
down as
chairman of
CCRA



in helping to make our area an even better place to live. Membership continues to grow – 271 now out of 800 households. I look forward to meeting even more of you at forthcoming events.

Your chance to make a difference for our community

If you enjoy reading Grapevine, and many do, then you have the Communications Group of CCRA to thank. Do you get the 'UPDATE' newsletter on Community Safety from members of the Community Safety Action Group? Do you sing with the Charlton Residents' Choir, enjoy walks with the walking group, research history with the Local History Group, or read stimulating books with the book group? CCRA

co-ordinates, plans, encourages and supports many groups and activities that foster a sense of belonging, neighbourliness and help to make Charlton Central a better place to live. The work of the Management group isn't difficult, there are no endless meetings – in fact it's a 'bit of a laugh'. Why not become involved? Find out more by contacting Linda on 020 8858 7377.

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A day for greening and cleaning

On Saturday 6 July residents from across our 13 roads met in St Richard's Hall as part of CCRA's Community Day. The morning saw everyone busy with 'Greening and Cleaning'. They pruned shrubbery and picked up litter as part of our mission to make Charlton Central a more pleasant place to live. In the afternoon the focus shifted with members of the Central Charlton Neighbourhood Watch (CCNW) taking the lead in promoting 'Community Safety'. Residents were able to collect information and talk to experts on: Women's safety, Noise Nuisance and Anti-social behaviour. Representatives from the Met's Anti-Terrorist and Rapid Response Teams gave insights into their work and Jackie Watson from RBG's Trading Standards talked to a lively audience about doorstep crime and the new Nominate a Neighbour Scheme. Charlton's own Safer Neighbourhood Team of police officers and our local Transport Police provided 'goody bags' stuffed full of important information and mugs, keyrings and pens! Our children got to meet the police and captured their impressions for us. If you'd like to join CCNW contact: brendataggart49@gmail.com or thegalloways28@hotmail.com. We hope to see you at the CCRA Community Day in 2014.



CCRA youngsters got a chance to meet the police on Community Day and were invited to sketch them. As this illustration shows, a policeman's hat is not a lippy one

A change is as good as arrest!

In Grapevine 23 (Feb 2013) we reported on the new policing strategy, developed by the Mayor of London that proposed radical changes to Safer Neighbourhood Teams and the location of Police stations across all London boroughs. These changes are now being implemented. In Charlton the biggest change is that Sgt Adrian Musgrave has taken up a new post in Greenwich's Emergency Response team and has been replaced by Sgt Martin Lockwood. Sgt Musgrave has been in Charlton for many years and his

local knowledge and dedication to duty will be sorely missed. We wish him well in his new post. We look forward to welcoming Sgt Lockwood to Charlton Central and working with him to reduce crime in our area. Our current SNT is Sgt Lockwood, PC Catherine Barrow and PCSO Lee Wilson. Meet them on 21 October (street briefings).

Details at gv-0ct-p3community.docxhttp://content.met.police.uk/Team/Greenwich/Charlton

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.



The smart (phone) way to recover your property

So many mobile phones are reported lost it's difficult for police to trace the owners of those found.

Now the National Mobile Phone Crime Unit www.nmpcu.police.uk has launched a free website www.immobilise.com to help. It contains 27 million accounts of lost items and is the best register of lost or stolen personal items in the UK. It is easy to register an account for such items as mobile phones, laptop computers, cameras and so. All found property is checked against this database by the police so it is important you enter any serial numbers. Even if you have not lost anything (yet) you can still register your property just in case.



Winner David Gayther



Winner Sarah Hornsey



Winner Brian Kriss



More than 12,000 runners left Greenwich Park for the annual Run To The Beat half marathon and quickly ran into trouble. A bottleneck at Woolwich Barracks cost many competitors frustrating delays of up to ten minutes.

It was the usual “love it or hate it” event with many Charlton residents and CCRA members unhappy about the disruption the race brings to our streets. Much of it goes through Charlton’s and the roads remain closed for several hours.

Runners swarm the pavements and last year, a CCRA resident was knocked down by one of the competitors. But many people turn out to watch the spectacle and support the runners raising hundreds of thousands of pounds for charity.

Greenwich Council receives a cash donation from the organisers to be distributed around the wards involved but local opinion that says more of it should come our way given that CCRA’s area takes a major hit in the inconvenience stakes. Grapevine would like to hear your views. We will publish any letters received in the next issue.



The Old Cottage Coffee Shop

Charlton Park

Winter time opening hours
Mon and Tues 10:00-2:00 (school term)
Wed-Sun 10:00-4:00

All day breakfast now available



Show where everyone's a success

Two weeks after the second CCRA Flower, Produce and Craft Show here are some thoughts, queries and facts. Entries were slightly down – 66 as against 73, but in some classes numbers were up and there was significant competition. Popular classes last year had hardly any entries this year. Why did nobody enter the chocolate cake class? Where were the cup cakes this year? Some entrants are building a track record for first prize winning, (you know who you are), with others coming in from left-field to surprise themselves by their achievements – but we only had one children's entry, a very worthy effort from Megan Brown. Now, we'll undertake some "post match analysis", doubt-

FULL RESULTS

Flower/Flower Arranging

Single hybrid tea rose: 1 David Gayther; 2 Dan Margetts; HC Annie Galloway

Single dahlia: 1 Brenda Taggart

Single Gladioli: 1 Lisa Marsh

Non-flowering pot plant: 1 David Gayther

Arrangement in a wine glass: 1 Jill Austin; 2 Beverley Weir; HC Brenda Taggart

Exhibit of garden foliage: 1 Laurie Endean; 2 Beverley Weir; HC Kat Pollock-Smith

Vegetables and Fruit

Tomatoes: 1 Sarah McKinnon; 2 Harjit Banwatt; HC Jill Austin

Runner beans: 1 Lyn Hay

Courgettes: 1 Dan Margetts; 2 Lynn Hay; HC Dan Margetts

Chilli plant: 1 Harjit Banwatt; 2 Beverley Weir

Raspberries: 1 Lyn Hay

Strangest looking vegetable: 1 Jill Austin

Baking

Fancy White Loaf: 1 Sonja Nolte

Brown Loaf (yeast): 1 Brian Kriss; 2 Carl Marsh; HC Sonja Nolte/Sarah Hornsey

Plain scones: 1 Sarah McKinnon; 2 Len Weir; HC Kat Pollock-Taylor/

less assisted by a glass of wine or even two, and plan for next year. What is clear is that those who entered or attended hugely enjoyed themselves, (especially in sampling and comparing the various entries), as did the members of the Blackheath & Greenwich WI who judged the competition and devoted so much time to seriously arguing the merits of the entries and reaching their conclusions. Our thanks to Caroline Lester, their President, who presented the prizes. We really did contribute to our CCRA aim of building a village in the city and we look forward to a bigger and better show next year.

LEN WEIR, show organiser.

Brenda Taggart

Victoria sponge: 1 Sarah Hornsey; 2 Lisa Marsh

Lemon drizzle cake: HC Len Weir

Fruit cake/loaf: 1 Beverley Weir; 2 Julia Mundy

Shortbread: 1 Brenda Taggart; 2 Len Weir

Preserves

Chutney: 1 Len Weir; 2 Len Weir

Strawberry jam: 1 Brenda Taggart; 2 Len Weir; 3 Kat Pollock-Smith

Raspberry Jam; 1 Brenda Taggart

Marmalade: 1 Len Weir; 2 Brenda Taggart

Lemon curd: 1 Brenda Taggart; 2 Len Weir

Crafts

Original painting/drawing: 1 Jenny Margetts; 2 Julia Mundy; HC Kat Pollock-Smith

Hand-knitted item: 1 Brenda Taggart; HC Kat Pollock Smith

Soft Toy: 2 Sarah Roseblade

Item of Patchwork/appliqué: 1 Elaine Picton

Item of Cross stitch: 1 Elaine Picton

Photo of Sunset: 1 Dan Margetts; 2 Dinah Moro; 3 Dinah Moro

Photo of animal/bird: 1 Peter Somerville; 2 Jenny Margetts; 3 Peter Somerville

Youth Classes Junior (Age - under 8)

Picture using craft materials 1 Megan Brown

I heard it on the grapevine...

How happy is my valley?

An oligarch, an oligarch, my kingdom for an oligarch! Where are they when you need one? Charlton's start to the season has not been covered in glory and without a significant injection of spondulix, we are in for a rough ride.

Beaten away by newcomers Bournemouth on the opening day; beaten at home by Middlesbrough; a draw at Barnsley (who we beat 6 – 0 last season) then a bizarre abandoned match against Doncaster eventually abandoned after a deluge. At that point we were 1- 3 down and lucky to escape for a replay.

Then came high-flying Leicester. The sun shone on the stadium and the boys got stuck in and delivered a fine performance running out 2 -1 winners. Should have been more as Church skied one over right on the goal line and Leics keeper Schmichael pulled off a save of the season to deny us a fourth.

So where does that leave us? In a dodgy position I fear. As the season got closer we all watched the transfer news around the country waiting to see what would happen at the Valley. Answer? Very little. I think the board looked into their purse and found only moths. Alas no lurking oligarchs.

Perhaps the most telling sign of trouble at t'mill was the interview Chris Powell gave on the Thursday before the first game. At that point, he said, Charlton

had only one striker, Yann Kermorgant. And if he got injured there would be none.

I'm certain that message was not to the fans; that was a direct appeal to the board to extract their collective finger and open the chequebook. The next day we had acquired Church and Sordell. Which gave the team precisely 24 hours to organise its new personnel and play its first game. Not surprising in that context that they should suffer defeat.

Where are we now? As I write we've played 11 games and won only one, drawn four and lost the rest and hover perilously close to the relegation zone. To add to the woes we have a growing injury list that includes Solly, Jackson and Kermorgant – key players. And it doesn't help that there are unsettling rumours of a ground change involving a move to the Millennium village.

Positives? Well, the 1 – 1 draw against Notts Forest was a cracker and Les Garcons should have got the three points they deserved. The work ethic and the motivation give rise to cautious optimism. We followed it up with a goalless draw at home against high-flying Blackpool, our first clean sheet of the season.

There's a long way to go and we keep our congers fished. COYR's!



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Heathrow flight protests take off

Many Charlton residents report being disturbed by the noise from increasing numbers of flights overhead between 4.30am and 6am and throughout the day, following a trial to divert night flights and relieve those living under existing Heathrow flight paths.

Despite the trial's conclusion in March that it "would not be taken forward in its current form" the daytime and early morning flight patterns seem to be unchanged.

If you are affected you can complain via the Noise Complaint Form on Heathrow's Noise webpage (<http://www.heathrowairport.com/noise/help/make-an-enquiry>).

Further information is available on the HACAN Clear-Skies website at <http://www.hacan.org.uk/>

Community interest groups

Walking group autumn/winter 2013 programme

Our walks take place on the last Sunday of the month and normally finish at a nearby watering hole. We sometimes arrange extra walks to coincide with special events. If you would like to be on the mailing list about walks, please e-mail walkers@charltonresidents.org

27 October – Riverside walk to North Greenwich with an optional visit to The Crystal. Leave 8 Ellismombe Road at 10.30. Visit: <http://www.thecrystal.org/> for more information about the Crystal Centre. Please note that this involves crossing the river – either by tube or cable car.

24 November – The ‘Transatlantic Slavery Trail’. A walk based around Greenwich Park. Leave 8 Ellismombe Road at 11.30. Download further information at: http://www.rmg.co.uk/upload/pdf/Transatlantic_Slavery_Trail.pdf

8 December – ‘Discover Deptford Creek’. This is a guided walk and will need to be pre-booked. The cost is £10.00 per adult (concessions £8.50). Visit: <http://www.thamesdiscovery.org/events/discover-deptford-creek> for more information.

Book group

The book group met in September and welcomed three new members with their fresh ideas, experiences of different authors and good suggestions for future reads. We looked at the shortlist for the Man Booker Prize, and we’ve all selected a couple of the books. The Shortlist of six – down from the original 151 books – is representative of ‘the finest in fiction’.

We shall see whether our Book Group agrees with the panel’s decision when we meet again on Wednesday 16 October. For more information and dates of future meetings, contact Zoë on zoe31well@hotmail.com. For the full list, check www.themanbookerprize.com.

Art group

The art group enjoyed a productive afternoon drawing and painting in Greenwich Park on Sat 8 September. The next outing is planned for Sat 14 December. Please contact Julia on juliamundy@hotmail.com for more details.

Singing group

The singing group has already had two sessions since the summer, both well attended. Our regular sessions take place alternately on Mondays and Thursdays. Our remaining dates are: 17, 28 October; 11, 28 November and 9 December. There will also be the usual carol singing evenings and some other opportunities to perform over the Christmas period. We are always happy to welcome new members, whatever your level of experience – the group is about singing for pleasure. If you are interested in joining, please contact Chris on 020 8858 7377.

Music group (‘SE7’)

We are continuing to play our usual mix of music in our regular fortnightly sessions, which began on Monday 23 September. We performed at the AGM on Monday 7 October and hope to start back at Cattleya later in the month. Our remaining group sessions are: 21 October; 4, 18 November; 2, 16 December. If you are interested in joining the group, please contact Chris on 020 8858 7377.

Air Pollution and the Silvertown Tunnel

Campaigners against the proposed Silvertown Tunnel development did their own research into pollution levels in Greenwich, Charlton, Blackheath, Kidbrooke and Eltham during the summer by attaching tubes that measure nitrogen dioxide to lamp posts. They planned to discuss their results at a meeting at the Forum, Trafalgar Road, Greenwich on 16 October, which will then be reported on www.silvertowntunnel.co.uk.

Comments, feedback, queries or material for the next edition of Grapevine, should be emailed to grapevine@charltonresidents.org by 25 November. Alternatively phone Linda Pound on 0208 858 7377, Bob Smith on 0208 853 2697 or Joy Ogden on 0208 293 3034.



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