

Dates for your diary

Sunday, 13 April

CCRA bike ride.

For full details see <http://www.charltonresidents.org/bike-ride-2/>

Contact bikeride@charltonresidents.org.

Monday, 14 April

Charlton Community Gardens' children & parent event

Charlton Station 1.30-3.30. Plant a seed & build a bug hotel with Greenwich Community College. Children should wear getting-dirty clothes.

Monday, 28 April

CCRA Spring Social

7.30, St Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road. For details please see page 4

Saturday, 17 May

Open Gardens – members only.

For details please see page 4. Times and venues to be shown in next members' bulletin.

Sunday, 1 June

Big Lunch

From 12.00, Charlton Park – bring a picnic, an instrument or game and something to sit on.

Saturday, 5 July

Community Day – focus on health.

St Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road. Full details in next Grapevine

Saturday, 13 September

Flower and produce show.

St Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road. Further details soon

Sunday, 14 September

Open Gardens. Further details soon

Classified Ads

Grapevine reaches more than 1,000 homes and retail outlets, in our designated area and beyond. To advertise, contact Sarah Roseblade on 07779024226 or sarah.roseblade@ntlworld.com

Rates: small ads up to 15 words plus contact details: £10 for one issue or £30 for four issues; panel ads containing up to 20 words, contact detail and an image/logo cost from £30 for one insertion or £100 for four.

Calling all badminton players

'Bad' or should I say 'light-hearted' badminton players wanted. Contact Dania on 07894702272.

Anyone for weekend jogging?

Interested in some 'not too demanding' weekend jogging? Contact David on 020 8305 1737.

Campaigners demand action

The Old Coffee Shop petition (see Grapevine February 2014, vintage 27) collected 700 signatures from local residents who are keen to see Greenwich Council get their act together and renovate the pavilion and its toilets in Charlton Park.

As we went to press we were still waiting to hear whether the money spent so far came from the 2012/13 budget or whether the Council has allocated money from its new budget for 2014. And we are waiting for reassurance that they will act. We will keep you posted. If you want to ask the Council yourself, contact one of our councillors: Councillor Gary Parker: gary.parker@royalgreenwich.gov.uk or by phone on 07786 628512. Councillor Allan MacCarthy: allan.maccarthy@royalgreenwich.gov.uk or by phone on 020 8858 4298.

Building an extension

Last May the government gave permission for single-storey rear extensions to be built without the normal planning permission for a limited period ending in May 2016.

Any extension built under this scheme, together with any existing additions or buildings may not cover more than half the area of land around the 'original house'. The extension should not be higher than the existing roof (or 4 metres) and must not extend beyond the rear wall of the original house by more than 3 metres (or 4 metres in the case of a detached house). Some larger extensions may be allowed but would be subject to the neighbour consultation scheme.

If you are considering building an extension it's well worth having a look at guidance. The two web sites shown below offer helpful advice. It's also sensible to talk to planning officers at Royal Greenwich on 020 8921 5019.

http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/uploads/neighbour_consultation_scheme_guidance_may13.pdf

<http://www.channel4.com/4homes/build-renovate/building-renovating-advice/extension-rules-what-s-allowed-and-what-s-not-08-09-16>

Comments, feedback, queries or material for the next edition of Grapevine, should be emailed to grapevine@charltonresidents.org by 9 June. Alternatively phone Linda Pound on 0208 858 7377, Bob Smith on 0208 853 2697 or Joy Ogden on 0208 293 3034.



Stumped!

CCRA seeks clarification after protected tree is axed

Central Charlton residents are confused and concerned about the future of the plot of land at the rear of 111/113 Victoria Way. Greenwich Council had sold it to a developer even though trees on the site have protected status, which renders building difficult.

So when workmen turned up in February armed with chain saws, one worried resident quickly called the council. Greenwich's Tree Preservation Officer arrived and said the men were tree surgeons. They confirmed they had orders to clear the site of all trees without a preservation order (TPO).

CCRA members and residents have, in the past, opposed plans to build flats on this site.

The officer gave permission for one tree with a TPO on it to be cut down. Normally, five days' notice is required before this can happen, but permission was given on the spot, allowing the developer to give notice retrospectively.

This decision seems to have been made on the basis of a brief examination that ascertained the tree was 80 per cent dead and was further undermined by foxholes. We understand the Tree Officer told the workers that all trees on the site should be left and if the site is to be developed and trees are to be cut down, they should be included in any planning application. The Officer also said a replacement tree will be requested and should be planted in the same place as the axed tree.

CCRA is concerned that the fewer trees there are



on the site the greater is the likelihood it will be developed. Trees in our urban environment are vital and provide habitats for woodpeckers, stag beetles and bats. They help cut air pollution and reduce the risk of flooding.

Our CCRA streets are recognised by the borough as falling within an area of local park deficiency. The trees at the junction of Wellington Gardens and El-liscombe Road have a particularly important function. That section of road has, over many years, been liable to flood. Some improvements to drains have made a difference but a recent publication from the Environment Agency highlights the risk of surface flooding. Trees help combat this. Fortunately a number of the trees in Wellington Mews have preservation orders on them.

Royal Greenwich has a questionable track record on trees and planning applications. When flats were demolished in Victoria Way trees were cut down. One planning condition was that new trees should be included in the development but this was never enforced and when challenged by CCRA some years later, Greenwich's planning department said trees would have got in the way of off-street parking provision.

RBG's planning department has consistently overlooked or ignored planning conditions concerning care and replacement of trees for recent developments in Wellington Gardens. Several residents have suggested a new list of protected trees should be drawn up in consultation with CCRA.

If you have concerns about work on trees near you contact RBG's Tree officer, Debi Rogers, on 020 8921 5661. For more general concerns contact one of our councillors. Councillor Gary Parker: gary.parker@royalgreenwich.gov.uk or by phone on 07786 628512. Councillor Allan MacCarthy: allan.maccarthy@royalgreenwich.gov.uk or by phone on 020 8858 4298.

Sunday, 13 April CCRA Bike Ride

For full details contact bikeride@charltonresidents.org.

Monday, 14 April 1.30-3.30pm Charlton Community Gardens Children & Parent event

Plant a seed and build a bug hotel. With Greenwich Community College. Children to wear 'getting - dirty' clothes.

STOP PRESS



Our Spring Social is on Saturday, 26 April, 7.30 at St Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road when we will be launching the new Community Volunteer Time Bank project. See Page 5 for full details.

Caring for the streets where we live

The local council is responsible for looking after our pavements and roads but they are also our collective concern. We can't take it for granted that things just get fixed. CCRA has set up a project to monitor the condition of our streets and we want everyone to observe and collate information monthly and channel it for corrective action to the council. Over time we will build up a record. We will publish a report on the CCRA website and feed back to the council how we think they are doing. So when you walk your street, please record your observations.

Do it monthly, regularly on any day of the month. The more residents who send a report the better our information will be. Download your street monitoring form at:

www.charltonresidents.org/groups/action-group-1/

Report things like graffiti, fly-tipping, street lighting to the following sites for action by RBG: www.fixmystreet.com or www.lovecleanstreets.org/Reports/Home

Send your findings to streetmonitor@charltonresidents.org

Give the following information: Street name, date of monitoring, person reporting. Give your comments, such as Fair/needs attention and report on other issues eg dog mess, overgrown vegetation, litter, rainwater drainage, pavement condition, car parking/ speeding. If you don't have a computer or internet access you can contact Linda Pound on 0208 858 7377 to make a report.

It's our site to behold

Our new, vibrant CCRA website (www.charltonresidents.org) is up and running to access at the click of a mouse. All our news, views and latest events information are there and regularly updated.

The new CCRA Calendar enables you to store CCRA dates in your personal electronic diary. Another

useful addition is the archive database of backdated Grapevines, which will be supplied in a downloadable PDF format.

We plan to add a picture gallery of past events and introduce a way for new members to sign up to CCRA and for the CCRA newsletters and bulletins.

If you want to comment on the website or to add content, please let us know via the Contact us section.

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The Village Green, green veg of home

It's true that Charlton can no longer boast a Village Green (if it ever could) but it certainly has a welcome newcomer in the form of the Village Green Grocer.

The shop is the brainchild of Ahmet Evin and Nazar Guler, who set out for the market each day at around 4am to make sure their produce is the freshest and highest quality – mainly from the UK and as local as possible.

In among the gleaming fruits and pristine vegetables you might find locally grown tomatoes pollinated by bumble bees or butterflies, free range organic eggs, olive oils, coconut oils, almond milk, award-winning cheeses and a multitude of other goodies.

Both men are Turkish and both studied business studies, had their own café or restaurant and worked as key account managers. Ahmet grew up here and Nazar came as a student to the University of Westminster. They met in Walthamstow in 2006, lost touch, but met again by chance and that time stayed in contact. In 2012 they set up in business together.

Ahmet says: 'I feel our shop is a great addition to the village but people need to change their shopping habits. By supermarket standards we are up to 50% cheaper. We let the customers touch and smell the product they buy and if a customer wants just one tomato or one apple they can buy just one.'

The two friends are preparing to launch their home deliveries. Nazar says: 'Please, give us feedback – we're open to new ideas. If you say you would like to see this in our store we will get it. One reason we are



Village Greengrocers: Ahmet Evin (left) and Nazar Guler (right)

doing the box delivery is to support elderly or disabled people. There is a minimum order of £10 but £8 for a disabled or elderly customer and no charge for next day delivery.' They are hoping to have their website ready by the end of April.

They are also a one-stop wholesale supplier for local pubs and restaurants with everything from cleaning materials to fish, meat, fruit and veg.

Says Nazar: 'If someone wanted to put kangaroo or zebra meat on their menu we could supply it – frozen, not fresh. Once I had a pub customer in central London who decided to put crocodile meat on their menu and it went crazy!'

There are no plans to sell croc burgers in Charlton, but they are thinking of offering fresh ice cream and fresh fruit juices. And if you have any fresh ideas they would love to hear from you.

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.



Droning on and on...

Are you regularly disturbed by early morning flights overhead? Well it could be about to get worse. Currently there are 16 Heathrow arrivals between 4.30 am and 6.00 am, many of them routed over Greenwich and Charlton, thus disrupting local residents' sleep. A new proposal would allow 35 flights before 6.00am – averaging one every four minutes. Everyone is entitled to a decent night's sleep, and some of our members would like CCRA to adopt a policy position of a presumption against night flights. This would enable us to make representations on the Association's behalf in local forums on night flights to protect CCRA residents' interests. If you have any comments on this, please email grapevine@charltonresidents.org or phone Bob Smith on 0208 853 2697 or Joy Ogden on 0208 293 3034

Spring Social launches new help scheme

The new Community Volunteer Time Bank scheme will be launched at the Spring Social on 26 April (see p8 for details). CCRA has linked with Age UK Bromley/Greenwich to establish a local CVTB scheme, aimed mainly at the CCRA area. After a presentation by Liz Kent (CVTB manager) you can ask questions about volunteering, or join the existing group of 400+ members.

The Volunteer Time Bank is about giving time and skills, but also about receiving. Skill swapping can happen one-to-one or in a group. For every hour you give, you receive one time credit you can spend on something you want, or donate it to a family member or friend, or to the CVTB pot to be used by an older person in the wider community. There is already a wide range of interest groups and activities with something for everyone. Come along, have a glass of wine, chill, chat, listen to the CCRA Singers and hear about the latest CCRA initiative to link people together in our area.

It's Open Gardens time again

CCRA members will once again be sharing the pleasures of their blossoming gardens with association friends. Enjoy a sociable afternoon on 17 May sharing ideas and gathering gardening tips. This year, there will also be a collecting box, (above the nominal entrance fee), to Greenwich and Bexley Hospice. The garden hosts look forward to welcoming you! If you'd like to share your garden with other CCRA members ring Liz on 020 265 5454.



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



A full house at last year's Spring Social

Woolwich police station closes

Woolwich police station shut down in February and the building will be put up for sale. A mobile police station will be parked in General Gordon Square in Woolwich from 12.00 to 14.00 every Saturday. The nearest 24/7 police station is Plumstead, 200 High Street, SE18 1JY. Eltham Police Station, 20 Well Hall Road SE9 6SF, will be open Tuesday to Saturday from 10.00 am to 6.00 pm. Greenwich Police Station, 31 Royal Hill SE10 8RR, will be open Wednesdays and Thursdays 7-8 pm and 2-3pm on Saturdays.

New cop on the block

We have a new officer on our Safer Neighbourhood Team; PC Adam Clifton. We'd like to welcome Adam to the 'patch' and we look forward to working with him. The visible presence of the SNT around the Charlton Church Lane/Charlton Station has seen a reduction in anti-social behaviour. If you want to meet with the SNT there are two Drop-in Surgeries coming up. Both are 1:1 consultation sessions and take place: 6 March, 11.00 am – 12 noon at Charlton Triangle Homes Office, Cedar Court and 24 March 11.00 am – 12 noon at Charlton House, Charlton Road.

Met boss meets the people

Commissioner of the Met, Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe came to Charlton House to meet with residents in February. A lively audience raised questions concerning the deployment of SNTs, combating fraud, stop and search and community relations. During the meeting we said good-bye to Richard Wood our Borough Commander. Richard came to Greenwich in 2009 from the Met's Blunt 2 Taskforce, which focused on reducing youth violence and knife crime. During his time in Greenwich he has overseen a steady reduction in crime. He has provided a very 'human' face to the police force and his no-nonsense approach has made him much admired. Richard is replaced by Helen Millichap.

Keep your eyes on the prizes...

The 3rd annual Flower, Produce and Craft Show, is on 13 September. Bit soon to get that Lemon Drizzle cake on the go, but it's certainly not too early to consider planting a few seeds or taking cuttings to grow on your windowsill.

If younger CCRA residents can be prised away from indoor pursuits, a trip out to take pictures for the photo competition will put the roses back in their cheeks. Hints and tips on how to present entries will be available on the website, as will a schedule of the various classes (available in hard copy if necessary).

This year, all entries will be taken on the morning of the show. Two entries per person per class, £1/entry for adults, 50p for younger folk. It's always a fun day and helps us build our village in the city.



A selection of entries from last year's show

Only connect...

Business and community are not always words that go together well. To harmonise the two a Business Connector has been set up for the borough of Greenwich and the best bit is that she lives in Charlton!

Monica Hossain is a finance professional seconded from Lloyds Banking Group to work for Business in the Community (BITC), a Prince's charity, to be a Business Connector for 12 months. She plans to help broker partnerships of mutual benefit between community organisations, including schools, charities and social enterprises, and local businesses, mainly focusing on education, enterprise, employability and community cohesion.

Since it began in October 2012, 100 Business Connectors have been seconded from 28 companies to work in 66 disadvantaged areas. Together, they have made 2,400 connections with just under £4.5 million local leverage to support local organisations.

Monica told Grapevine: "All businesses have a responsibility to have a positive impact on the area and community where they operate. This holds extra significance for me as I live in Charlton so I am even more passionate about making a difference in my own community. If you need support for your community organisation, or simply want to know more, contact me: Monica.hossain@bitc.connect.org and 07557 499750."

The Big Lunch

The Big Lunch (see p8 for details) is a national event that aims to get people across the country to lunch with their neighbours once a year in a simple act of community. Bring a blanket and a picnic – and a gazebo if you have one. If you play an acoustic instrument, bring it with you and enjoy a jam session along with the jam sandwiches. Bring whatever you want to drink and perhaps a dish that you would be prepared to share with others – preferably finger food – saves washing up! Come and join in for food friendship and fun!



Little People's Montessori is opening in September for children aged 2 - 5 years. We are situated in the Meridian Sports and Social Club.

For further information please contact us at littlepeoplesmontessori@yahoo.co.uk

I heard it on the grapevine...

How happy is my valley?

On a wing and a prayer, Les Garcons enter the last ten games with their championship future hanging by the slenderest of threads. A wing because that's where we might find a player that can whip in crosses for the strikers to convert, and a prayer because imprecations to any deity who might look kindly on Charlton are worth a shot.

It has been a tumultuous season. As I write we hover on the brink of relegation, one place above the bottom three, but more crucially, three games in hand. A 0 – 1 win against Notts Forest gave us hope but two more defeats leave us perilously close to doom. Goals are the issue.

We just can't score enough. Fans' favourite Yann Kermorgant racked up a hat-trick, then two more goals in his last three outings. Unfortunately they were for his new team Bournemouth to whom we sold him in January. Dale Stephens also went. Sordell and Church, our remaining regular frontmen would fail in front of a barn door let alone a conventional goal. Our midfielders and backs do most of the scoring.

Our new owner in January sacked Chris Powell two months later. Word has it Powell effectively lost his right to manage. Multi-millionaire Belgian Roland Duchateley, who owns six clubs including top Belgium side Standard Liege operates a shared player system and before Powell could blink he found himself with rejects from the other clubs.

Powell got five and was told when to play them. When he stuck to his own selection he was sacked, despite taking us to the FA Cup quarter finals. Such is football. His departure was a sad day for the club. He was a committed Charlton enthusiast both as a player and a manager. He left with dignity and another club will certainly benefit from his tough but fair regime. I wish him well.

His successor is, surprise, surprise, a mate of the new owner. Jose Riga is now head coach and it remains to be seen whether he is the man for the Valley. His pedigree suggests he may have the talent and after six games under his tutelage the Boys are showing spirit.

With Chris Solly on the road to recovery and Leon Cort due back in the side there is still hope. Jonathan Obika, loaned from Tottenham near the end of the 2012 season, who helped us to clinch the Division One title, is back on loan til the end of the season. We have also signed Man U midfielder Davide Petrucci. He is prone to injury but a gifted player who likes to get forward and score. Home grown striker Joe Pigott has been recalled from his loan spell at Gillingham where he impressed. It seems clear Riga is strengthening his side for the final push.

The run in is not going to be easy, but I believe we can get over the line. Crongers Fissed. My tip for Player of the Season: Chris Powell. COYR's!

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Community interest groups

Local history

The Local History Group wants to use some information they received from Michael Leach, a Charlton resident who has collated information from the Book of Remembrance in St Luke's Church. We intend to search for names of fallen WW1 servicemen who lived in the CCRA area. It would be especially exciting to find any of their descendants to attempt to put a story to the names in the book.

There is a long list of names which will be shown in full at the Spring Social on 28 April and on the CCRA website but here we include just a few of the names of families we are looking for.

Do you know anything about Simeon Oliver; William Arthur Laurie Cooper and Arthur George Crawford who lived in Delafield Road? Or Francis Frederick Hutchinson or Philip Henry Widgery of Elliscombe Road? What about Edgar Stephen Alford from Priolo or Leonard Edward Nightingale from Sundorne? In Swallowfield Road the names of Hubert Arthur Clifton and William Fredrick Kennaird are amongst those we'd like to trace.

If you can tell us anything about these men - photographs and newspaper reports, letters, information about the schools they went to and the jobs they did or anything about their families today we'd love to hear from you. Don't forget to check out the full list of names if your family has a long-standing association with the area. Contact the editor on 020 8858 7377 in the first instance if you have some information.

Book group

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, 6 May when the group will be reading *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* by Rachel Joyce. For further details please contact Zoe on zoe31well@hotmail.com. All are welcome.

CCRA Singing Group

Our regular sessions began again on 9 January, the final session before Easter taking place on 3 April. We are looking forward to performing some of our songs at the CCRA Spring Social on 28 April. Dates for the summer will be announced soon. 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.

CCRA Music Group ('SE7')

The group has performed twice recently at Cattleya on 9 February and 16 March, and we hope to play there regularly through the summer. We meet fortnightly on Mondays and are always interested in gaining new members. Just at the moment we would especially like to hear from players of melody instruments – strings, woodwind or brass. If you are interested in joining the group, whatever your level of experience or expertise, please contact Chris on 020 8858 7377.

CCRA Walkers' Spring - Summer 2014 Programme

Our walks are usually on the last Sunday of the month and we aim to finish at a nearby watering hole. Where possible, each walk has a theme and we sometimes arrange extra walks to coincide with special events or festivals. If you would like to be on the mailing list for information about walks, or have ideas for walks that we can add to our itinerary please e-mail us on walkers@CCRA.org.uk or contact Palvinder on 07984121761. All walks start at 8 Elliscombe Road but times may vary depending on the itinerary. Full details of each walk are posted on the CCRA website.

27 April – Charlton Parks walk. We will leave 8 Elliscombe Road at 10.30 and walk along the Thames Path to the Barrier. From there, through Maryon Park, Maryon Wilson Park, and Charlton Park to finish at the Old Cottage Coffee Shop.

25 May – Lesnes Abbey and the Bluebell Woods. This area is a hidden treasure with lots to explore, eg The Abbey remains, the fossil bed, the chalk pit and heathland. There is something to interest everyone, including a children's playground. You can find out more at: <http://www.visitlesnes.co.uk/visitor-information>

29 June – we are repeating last year's very popular walk to Oxleas and Severndroog Castle and, weather permitting, combining it with a picnic in the afternoon. You can find out more at: <http://www.greenchain.com/learning/sites/oxleas-wood.php>.

20 July – WW1 Memorial Walk. Details to be confirmed.

