

Dates for your diary

Saturday, 5 July

Community Day

St Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road

Full details on page 1

Saturday, 27 July

Horn Fayre

Charlton Park 11.00 – 4.00

Saturday, 13 September

Flower and Produce Show

See page 4

Sunday, 14 September

Open Gardens – members only

Full details in September bulletin

If you'd like to open your garden contact

Liz on 020 8265 5454

Monday, 6 October

CCRA's Annual General Meeting

St Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road

Saturday, 18 October

Quiz night 7.30 – 10.00

St Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road

Classified Ads

Grapevine reaches more than 1,000 homes and retail outlets, in our designated area and beyond. To advertise, contact Sarah Roseblade on 0777 902 4226 or sarah.roseblade@ntlworld.com

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Needed

Lady who can help around the house for approx 5 hours a week. In exchange, a large sunny room with lots of storage at reduced rent. Fun, relaxed household with pretty garden. Nice little cat also lives here. Easy access to all transport links. If you're interested or know someone who might be, please ring Penny on 07540 490 044

Labour intensive.

Eleven candidates vied for the three council seats in Charlton and Labour won all three. Allan MacCarthy polled 2,193 votes, Gary Parker 1,890 and newcomer Miranda Williams, 2,112.

UKIP's Gary Port beat the three Tory candidates but highest vote, after Labour, went to the Green Party's Jack Wheeler with 798 votes. Labour now has an overall majority of 43 seats on Greenwich Council. The Conservatives have eight seats.

Don't be a hedge hog

Prickly shrubs can be dangerous. Do you have a hedge, shrub or other greenery overhanging your property? If it is over a pavement you may be breaking the law. We've had several complaints about prickly shrubs and other bushes posing problems to pedestrians. They restrict movement and can cause injuries. Young children are especially vulnerable. Check your property and prune your shrubs. The Council has the right to cut the vegetation back and charge you for the service.

Coach trips

For many years Doreen Gunning of Nadine Street has organised coach trips for ex AEI staff. Over the past couple of years she has invited local residents to join in. Coaches generally leave Charlton House at 9am and return by 5pm. If you are interested in any of the trips listed below please phone Doreen on 020 8853 0075 for further details: Sunday, 13 July Beth Chatto Garden and Colchester; Sunday, 17 August. Hythe and Dymchurch. Boat trips available on the day; Sunday, 7 or 14 September Hastings (date and venue to be confirmed)

Volunteers needed

Can you spare a couple of hours a month? Would you be willing to take minutes of meetings? Do you have expertise or experience in planning or environment issues? Would you be willing to help to plan and organise social events? CCRA's management committee and action group leaders would love to hear from you. If you have any time to spare to support your community contact chair@charltonresidents.org.

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



CHARLTON GRAPEVINE

VINTAGE 29 ☁ JUNE 2014

The newsletter of the Charlton Central Residents Association



CHEERS! Walking is thirsty work as these stalwart members of CCRA's walking group showed after an interesting trek round Lesnes Abbey recently. Full details: Page 7.

A clean sweep – and you can help!

Our annual Community Day on Saturday, 5 July, will be a day of two halves: looking after our streets in the morning, looking after ourselves in the afternoon.

In the morning, we set off to clear litter from the streets. And we are asking for your help. We meet at St Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road, at 9.45am, with a view to getting started at 10am. We provide protective jackets, litter-picking tools, gloves and rubbish bags.

When CCRA started the Community Day, drains had not been cleaned for many years. Now we get an annual summer clean (where parked cars allow) and the gully-sucker is doing its work right now in a street near you. It may not eliminate the smells but it helps.

As part of the clean-up operation, we are auditing the state of our streets – making a note of broken paving stones, pot holes, and any places where there is a concentration of litter or dog mess. We will pass our report to Greenwich Council for action. Lunch is free for all volunteers at 12 noon in St Richard's Hall, so please come and join us and help

STOP PRESS

Our annual flower and produce show is on 13 September. Full details and classifications are on the CCRA website: www.charltonresidents.org

to make our environment cleaner, healthier and more pleasant for everyone.

In the afternoon, events will be held in St Richard's Hall from 2pm until 4.30 pm. Experts with advice and information on different aspects of health and healthy living will be on hand, including: Ambassadors from the RBG Public Health and Wellbeing Service on services in the borough; a Community Food Worker offering tips on healthy eating; Greenwich Get Active, on opportunities to get more exercise within the borough; Kick the Habit, with advice and tips for giving up smoking (you can have your lung age tested, and your carbon dioxide levels monitored); a Cancer Co-ordinator with information on breast, bowel, cervical, testicular and other cancers, and details of NHS screening programmes – early detection is key for a good outcome in the fight against cancer.

We will also have speakers and demonstrations during the afternoon from the local NHS, St John's Ambulance and Time to Talk (a local NHS counselling service). Some of our CCRA members will be providing information on air quality in the neighbourhood and a Health Atlas display for the area.

Other activities are also planned for what will undoubtedly be an interesting and informative afternoon. Look on our website for the latest information: www.charltonresidents.org



*Help! Volunteers are needed for our big street clean up on Saturday, 5 July (see story above). Gloves, litter pickers and tabards are provided and there's a free lunch for all volunteers.

What's in store for IKEA?

Eric Pickles has blocked IKEA's plans to flatten the Sainsbury's and Comet sites in Bugsby's Way and build a new store. The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has responded to local appeals to reject the scheme because of its 'nightmare' impact on traffic and pollution levels. He will scrutinise the process by which the councillors made their decision.

In March, Greenwich Council's planning board granted outline planning permission in the face of strong public opposition. The board's five Labour members supported it, the two Conservatives voted against. The decision was due to be rubberstamped in the coming weeks, but the Secretary of State's intervention means it must now await his decision on whether it should be

referred to him for determination.

Campaigners say Greenwich should have demanded independent verification of IKEA's assertions that air quality and traffic levels would be improved by their plan instead of unquestioningly accepting them.

This remains controversial. Eric Pickles' intervention could lead to his department ordering Greenwich to commission its own Environmental Impact Statement. If you're interested in following this up, you can contact: M Diamond, Case officer, Department for Communities & Local Government, 5 St Philip's Place, Birmingham, B3 2PW or email Muredach.Diamond@communities.gsi.gov.uk. Case reference number: NPCU/RTI/E5330/73828. Or look at the protest website noikeagreenwich.weebly.com

And so to Sainsbury's...

The limited delivery arrangements agreed by Greenwich's planning department for the Sainsbury's opposite Charlton station will change. Despite CCRA and Charlton Society protests, the Council agreed to bigger delivery vans and more deliveries on Sundays and Bank Holidays. There were discussions about widening the pavement outside the store: anti-ram

bollards to protect the planned ATM will reduce the pavement width, making it difficult for buggies to pass. After granting the new delivery arrangements, Sainsbury's developer was directed to do a feasibility study about the pavement and pedestrian safety. Guess what? Greenwich agreed that pavement widening is unfeasible and unnecessary.



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What a relief!

Congratulations to Michael and Mim at the Old Cottage Coffee Shop in Charlton Park and to all those who signed their petition, for new loos.

The Council has agreed a budget to refurbish and modernise the toilets at the pavilion near the cafe and it will go out to tender in the next few weeks. Work has already started on the drains and on painting the outside and the Council is anxious to assure us it is taking Grapevine's questions seriously. We will report in the next issue on their progress and responses on issues such as timing, upkeep and cleaning, baby-changing facilities and proposals to turn one pavilion room into a meeting room for the community. With your support we will keep up the pressure and will keep you posted.



Operation Spruce Up at Charlton Park Pavilion

Time Bank scheme is launched

A very successful launch meeting was held in St Richard's Hall on the evening of 28 April, attended by over 70 people and chaired by Len Weir. Following a presentation by Liz Kent from Age UK Bromley/Greenwich, who is the local coordinator of the volunteer scheme, there was a vigorous discussion, when many people asked questions and sought clarifications. Nineteen people took introductory packs and these will hopefully lead to individual memberships.

CCRA is also in the process of becoming an organisational partner in the scheme, which will enable group participation – for example, by the CCRA Sing-

ing Group. Len Weir and Linda Pound will act as the CCRA's links and both will meet Liz Kent in mid-June to progress this aspect of the scheme.

The Volunteer Time Bank is specifically looking for people to help with gardens, DIY, basic sign language tuition or to provide regular companionship for other CVTB volunteers. They also need male peer support mentors for people living with prostate cancer in Charlton (training supplied). If you are interested in becoming an individual volunteer and did not manage to get a pack on the night, please phone 8315 1850/1883 or email communityvolunteerstb@ageukbandg.org.uk

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.



Crime is on the decline

Good news about crime is rare but the Met has recently published figures for Greenwich that show a downward trend over the last five years. Overall crime is down by 7.4% (comparing 2013/14 to 2012/13), burglary is down by 64 offences (-4.4%), car crime is down by 72 offences (-3.6%) and there have been 90 fewer personal robberies (-18.2%). This is testament to the policing in our area and we are grateful to our Safer Neighbourhood Team and to Commander Richard Wood for their part in bringing down crime. We hope the trend continues under new Borough Commander Helen Millichap. What remains stubbornly high is domestic violence and we urge anyone who suspects this crime is being committed to report it to Domestic Violence Hotline (24 hours): Local : 02089218345 or National : 0808200247.



C'est magnifique!

CCRA members play boules on the green



Gazebo gossip while the children enjoy the sunshine

A load of old rubbish

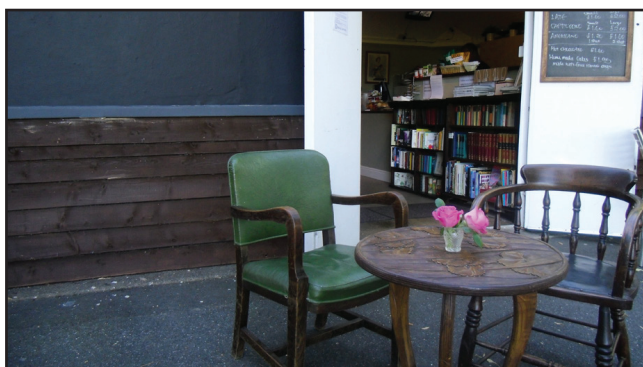
Fly tipping in our area seems to be on the increase. This antisocial activity gives us a bad image, is an eyesore, and encourages others to do the same. The result is a build up of rubbish, which attracts vermin and degrades our environment.

It is easy to get rid of large unwanted household items for a small fee by phoning the council on 0208 921 4661. Fly tipping is an offence and is being monitored by the council and the police. Offenders will be prosecuted. If you encounter a fly tipper record any evidence, ie car registration number and, if possible, photographs and note the time and date of offence and report it on the above number to the council. They will remove small fly tips from public spaces the day after it is reported and larger ones within four days.

✂ CCRA members will be receiving some good news on this subject. Further details in a forthcoming members' bulletin.

It's Showtime! (in September)

As you will hopefully be aware by now, the 3rd CCRA Flower, Produce and Craft Show will be held in St Richard's Hall on Saturday, 13 September. Final arrangements are in process for the Schedule of Classes, which will be individually delivered to all residents in the CCRA area in early July. The Schedule will also be available on the CCRA website, as will a 'Hints and Tips' document to give guidance on what is expected. All entries will be taken on the morning this year, so please do consider an entry, or even two – this is one of the fun social events of our CCRA year and we need as many participants as possible to make it properly competitive. Look forward to seeing you on the day, either as an entrant or to see the efforts of your neighbours! For entry form or more information ring Len Weir on 020 8858 4920 or editors (see back page for numbers).



The Old Cottage Coffee Shop
Charlton Park

Summer time opening hours
Every day from 10am to 5pm

All day breakfast now available

Horns of a dilemma

It's just not fair! Or should that be: It's just not fayre? Confused? You should be. Better ask Greenwich Council who have sanctioned two Horn fairs this year on consecutive weekends.

The REAL one, the Horn Fayre that has been taking place, on and off for hundreds of years, is at Charlton Park behind Charlton House on 27 July from 11am til 4pm. It was once described by Daniel Defoe as a 'yearly collected rabble of mad-people'.

This year another Horn Fair has been organised and will take place at the appropriately named Horn Fair Park on 3 August from noon til 5 pm. Perhaps there will be three next year.



Budding explorers enjoy a natural climbing frame

The Munch Bunch lunch in the park

On a perfect sunny afternoon in June, 60 CCRA members laid their blankets on the ground and enjoyed The Big Lunch. This is a national event that aims to get people across the country lunching with their neighbours once a year in a simple act of community.

Everyone brought food to share and young and old alike had a fabulous time. Our regular CCRA musicians generously provided gentle music in the background while children played ball and adults played boules. The event went so well that cricketers playing nearby came over to see what was happening. Collections were held for the Food Bank and Greenwich and Bexley Hospice. Thanks to everyone who helped in the organisation.



CCRA residents had the opportunity to visit the gardens of their friends and neighbours on May 17 in the twice-yearly Open Gardens scheme. It was an opportunity to admire the view, share a drink or two and help raise money for CCRA and Greenwich and Bexley Hospice. Six gardens opened and everyone had an enjoyable time. Gardens open again in September.



Above: Music maestros Chris Harrison, Ros Hone and, on clarinet Rachael Perrin entertain during the Big Lunch *Below:* Perfect park life with friends and neighbours



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I heard it on the grapevine...

How happy is my valley?

Never a dull moment at the Valley. It was a nerve-wracking end of season with genuine fears about our ability to stay up. In the end we cruised it after hovering in and around the relegation zone for several weeks. New head coach Jose Riga, brought in after Belgium owner Roland Duchatelet sacked fans favourite Chris Powell, stepped up to the mark and inspired the Boys into several good wins. And he coaxed goal-starved forwards Marvin Sordell and Callum Harriott in to spectacular form. Both scored hat tricks and Harriott, after no goals all season, slammed in five in the last two games.

The Valley warmed to Riga and we thought he was a shoe in for the full time position. Wrong again. Yet another sacking and yet another new head coach. Only God and Duchatelet know why. The new boy is ex-Millwall forward Bob Peeters, a Belgian former international. There will be a lot of new faces in Floyd Road after many players were released out of contract. Cort and Dervite, both good defenders, have gone along with Hamer, Hollands and Green. Having sold Kermorgnt and Stevens before the season ended, we've lost a significant part of the squad and we must now start rebuilding with quality new players.

The new management is good on encouraging Academy players, a tactic already promoted by Chris Powell. By season's end we were regularly playing

with four or five young Charlton hopefuls and they made a difference. Next season I would love to see them in the starting line-up. I'm hoping we hang on to Gus Poyet's son Diego who came into the side from the Academy mid-season and made such an impact that he ran out Player of the Year. He's a real talent and we will be lucky to keep him, but I think another season at this level would be good for him and Charlton. Also in the mix are Jordan Cousins, Joe Pigott, Morgan Fox and Callum Harriott. Bright young hopefuls. In addition we've signed Zak Ansah, a 21-year-old pacey forward from Arsenal and I hear that we've had a £500,000 bid for Barnsley striker Chris O'Grady accepted. Reserve keeper Nick Pope has just signed a new contract and, with Hamer gone, he can look forward to plenty of first team action next season.

Soon after the last home game the bulldozers moved in and ripped out the morass that was Charlton's pitch. As I write much of the work has been completed on the new one and the new grass was due to go down by the end of June. Word is that Duchatelet has spent a lot of money on the new pitch because he wants it ready for our return to the premiership. I certainly back him on that one.

We don't want any more upheavals on, in or off the pitch. Let's hope we kick off on the right foot and have a brilliant season.

Crongers fished. COYR's!

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Community interest groups

CCRA Singing Group

Regular sessions began again on 24 April, in time to rehearse for the Spring Social, which included a fine performance of Dowland's madrigal Come Again - perhaps our most ambitious piece so far. Dates for summer are Thursdays, 26 June and 17 July. We welcome new members, whatever your level of experience - the group is about singing for pleasure. Contact Chris on 020 8858 7377.

CCRA Music Group ('SE7')

Sunday, 1 June was a busy day for us. In the afternoon, we played at the CCRA Big Lunch in Charlton Park. Then, in the evening, we played to a full house at Cattleya. The band meets fortnightly on Mondays - remaining dates this summer: 16 June, 30 June. New members welcome, especially players of melody instruments - strings, woodwind or brass. Contact Chris on 020 8858 7377.

CCRA walking group

Fifteen residents set off on a sunny Sunday May morning for Lesnes Abbey, from Bostall Hill, through ancient oak woodlands and along the Green Chain Path until we arrived at the Abbey, which was founded in 1178 by Richard de Luci, probably as a penance for his involvement in Thomas a Beckett's murder. Now a ruin, it is still a pretty site in rolling parkland surrounded by ornamental gardens. Thanks to Palvinder and Jill for organising. The next two walks are: Sunday, 29 June to Erith Marshes meeting at Charlton Station at 10.15 for the 10.21 train to Slade Green (bus replacement service from Plumstead) for a flat three mile walk over themarshes and along the river to Erith, continuing our Thames Riverside Trail walk. Sunday, 20 July to Bough Beech, Kent, meeting at 8 Elliscombe Road at 10am; car drivers who can offer lifts welcome. Please contact Palvinder for information on 07984 121761 or Jill on 020 8853 4366

Book Group

The next meeting is on Wednesday, 13 August to discuss Entry Island by Peter May - a dark detective novel. And for September/October we challenge you to read the Booker Prize Shortlist with us! The shortlist will be announced on 9 September and

the winner on 14 October. We usually divide up the books to see if we can predict the winner. We'll circulate dates to members and anyone interested in joining. Further details from zoe31well@hotmail.com. All are welcome.

Are you a poet and don't know it?

Do you enjoy reading poetry? Do you write your own poems, or would you like to try? After three terms at the City Lit, where we enjoyed the company of others who like reading and writing poetry, we'd like to get together with similar people locally. We can't promise it will be high-brow but hope it will be stimulating and will encourage us all to use our creative processes. If you are interested in forming a monthly group, please contact Joy Ogden on 020 8293 3034, or email joy.ogden@btopenworld.com or Linda Pound on 020 8858 7377 or email lindapound@hotmail.com

Charlton Community Gardens

As Grapevine went to press, Charlton Community Garden members were preparing for two significant events. 26 June marked the first anniversary of the demonstration garden at Charlton railway station. The herbs, wildflower area and four raised beds, regularly tended by dedicated volunteers, provide lots of interest and look lovely - which should still be the case for the second event, when the garden is judged for Britain in Bloom four days later. There are always opportunities to get your hands dirty - there is a working party on 6 July and volunteers are welcome. Check the website: <http://charltoncommunitygardens.org.uk>

