

Report from the Chair of the Association for Thursday 10/10/2019

Welcome to all residents who have turned out on this cool, breezy, Autumn evening for CCRA's 2019 AGM, our 12th AGM.

This last year has again been a busy one, and again an honour being able to represent residents.

For Information

As you know last year we were unable to appoint a Secretary at the AGM, however I am glad to be report that Jonathan Sanders offered to help out and was co-opted into the role of Secretary by a vote taken by the Management Committee in the early part of 2019.

What's New

So, what's new in Charlton Central?

As you know CCRA has a long-held commitment with this hall – St Richard's, and we were glad in June this year to participate in "St Richard's Day" and get to meet other hall users and continue to build partnerships, and strengthen the good relationship we have with the St Luke's & St Thomas's Benefice.

The hall is what we know as "an asset of community value" for use by all, and I am pleased to report that CCRA's new exercise sessions began at the start of this week, here at St Richard's, with about 20 locals enjoying the low intensity exercise, and the chance for a chat and a cuppa afterwards.

You might also like to know about the arrival of the Greenwich Winter Night Shelter here at the hall, this coming November running on Saturday nights until the end of March.

Thankyous

I would like to thank CCRA Officers, Treasurers - Jas and Bal Dhesi, Secretary - Jonathan Sanders and of course Vice Chair - Brenda Taggart.

Brenda who will be stepping down as Vice Chair, (but gladly staying on Management Committee!) Brenda has - both as committee member and Vice Chair been a great mentor for me and worked tirelessly supporting the aims of the association, unfortunately she couldn't be here tonight.

Our Treasurers Jas and Bal Dhesi have settled in well to their joint role, and are doing a fabulous job, and working closely with Jas and Bal is Jacqui Mitchell our Membership Secretary who has done wonders in promoting the association and increasing our membership.

Thanks also, to all the members of the Management Committee – new and longstanding, who in equal measure apply their effort and energy to the interest groups and action groups, and certainly not forgetting the work of the editorial team for the Charlton Grapevine.

Planning

Well, things this year have moved on at quite a pace, with a number of recent public exhibitions from Komoto, U&I and Hyde. There is now a new developer Montreaux – who bought the Stone Foundries site just recently. So, including Rockwell at the VIP Trading Estate, there are five major developments coming on stream for Charlton Riverside.

I will just talk a little bit about Rockwell, as you know CCRA made representations in July 2018 at Woolwich Town Hall, and at The Mayor's Office-City Hall in January this year, where the Mayor refused the planning application. CCRA's Planning Action Group (who I can't thank enough for their work) are currently working very closely with other local associations and groups, as part of Charlton Together and will be involved with the public inquiry which will begin on 19th November and will be heard over 12 days. On the first day of the inquiry we will really need (as we did at City Hall) to be able to show the strength of community voice and feeling opposing this development and hope that as many residents as possible will be able to be there, the venue is likely to be local to Greenwich.

CCRA Social Events

Over the last year CCRA's social events have again been a great success, after the AGM in 2018, we hosted a very busy Quiz Night, followed by another very busy Christmas Fayre & Social.

In early April we hosted the Spring Social renaming it Jump Into Spring, where we responded to requests from the residents discussions at the last AGM, providing a pop up café, a chance to play board games and "make & do" craft stalls.

Our Summertime Open Gardens event (with thanks to Liz Somerville who led on this) was a great success with 6 garden hosts and raising funds towards the cost of Grapevine.

Community Day on the 6th July was very well attended in the morning for cleaning and greening and in the afternoon for the low intensity exercise taster sessions. This year we also planted begonias and seeds around the base of trees which was an innovation.

Volunteers for the morning cleaning & greening session, were treated to a delightful vegan friendly lunch, all thanks to Jacqui Mitchell.

Most recently Brenda Taggart led on the 8th Annual Flower & Produce, yet another very popular event, that involved not only residents of Charlton Central but people from across the wider community.

The next events will be Quiz Night, the Christmas Fayre, and Carol Singing, and we will confirm the social programme for 2020, in the December edition of Grapevine. Speaking of carol singing last year we raised over £600, half went to the local night shelter, and half to the Greenwich Foodbank-and Alan Robinson will be here shortly to talk about the work they do there.

Underpinning the social programme are the members of Social Group - Chris Harrison, Jill Austen, Linda Pound, Wendy Barrington, Liz & Pete Somerville, Joy Ogden, Jacqui Mitchell, thank you for everything you contribute, to enable residents to meet and forge friendships.

Community Safety Action Group

As you will have read in Grapevine, CSAG have had a very busy year, especially when we had somewhat of a crime wave in the area due to the activities of mostly one person.

Charlton Central Neighbourhood Watch are keen to sign residents up to the watch, and ensure our area stays as safe and secure as possible, with people watching out for each other, and you can sign up tonight. The watch held a pop stall at the corner of Wellington Gardens during the Summer, supporting residents with home security advice.

Last year the group launched the No Cold Caller/No Rogue Trader Zone in Charlton Central in April, with stickers on doors and signs fixed to lamp-posts, we can report that the result of so many people using these stickers has meant a reduction, and the scheme has been a real success.

Environment Action Group

In 2020, I will be working towards reinvigorating this group, and I hope that you will sign up tonight, we will be hosting a cheese and wine evening in the near future, so I hope you can get involved with greening and environment issues.

The latest news is that the stretch of land on Inverine Road have a fence installed around it, and we will keep you up to date with when that will take place.

Recap of 2018 / 2019 and around and about Charlton

So what else has been happening around the area?

Looking back, it is easy to forget that this year, Ikea opened on Peartree Way – just a short walk away. I am glad to say that CCRA has really good links and relationships with Ikea.

If you walk towards Asda you will have noticed that the mosaic benches on Rathmore Road have been painstakingly repaired during the Summer.

Over the Summer the new Charlton Neighbourhood Forum was launched and held their first AGM.

Over the Summer in Charlton, there were a number of events such as Big Lunch, the Great Get Together, Picnic In the Park, and the many school fayres.

An older tradition is the Horn Fair at Charlton House this Sunday, I feel that we are so lucky to have all these things going on, that give us all that really important sense of community.

I want to end my report by saying that none of the things that happen with the association could happen without people, without their time and effort, thoughts and actions. Some folk like to be heavily involved with many things, others like to focus just on one or two things, individual contribution is all important.

So 2020 is on our doorstep, as we saw with the packed public hearing at City Hall in January, there is real value in community coming together, and we can achieve great things, I would strongly encourage you to get involved with the work of CCRA, our work simply must continue.

Whether your part is big or small - it counts!

ADDENDUM added 19th October 2019 – NB The officers of the Association met three times during the year 2018/2019 to conduct strategic business. **Thank you Jodie Coughlan October 2019**