

CCRA - Interim Chair Report - October 2020

I am writing to update you with plans for our AGM, to introduce our accounts for the year ending June 2020, and to give you an overview of CCRA's activity in the year from October 2019 to October 2020.

We've unfortunately had to postpone this year's AGM, due to the ongoing coronavirus regulations. In view of the exceptional situation, the current Officers and members of your Management Committee will be remaining in post for the time being. We would welcome any members who wish to join the Committee. We hope to be able to hold our AGM in January 2021, at which we will provide full reports of our activities from October 2019.

Our accounts for the year ending June 2020 show a sound position, with a total of £4,896.84 in the bank on 30 June. £2,926.35 was ring-fenced, with an underlying position of £1,970.50. We are grateful to our Co-Treasurers, Jas Dhesi and Baljinder Dhesi, for their sterling work in managing our accounts. Like many other organisations, we have seen a fall in our income after having to cancel social events. But we have benefited from a number of grants, and we are proud to thank the Royal Borough of Greenwich, the Co-Op, The National Lottery, Conran Estate Agents and individual members of CCRA for their generous support.

In terms of our programme of activities and events, it does feel like it has been a year of two halves.

Between October and March, we were very much business as usual. Some highlights:

- Our well established interest groups went from strength to strength - whether reading, singing, walking or our highly regarded Knit and Natter Group.
- Children and their families and carers enjoyed Playing Out.
- We launched our popular and well attended exercise classes for older residents.
- We held a lively Quiz Night.
- CCRA kept up its tradition with the annual Christmas Fayre and our amazing carol singers raised £630 for good causes, which was split between the Greenwich Food Bank and St Luke's Night Shelter (held this year for the first time in St Richard's Hall).
- We worked with the Council to effect some major changes to the management of traffic at the bottom of Charlton Church Lane and with Hyde Housing for landscaping improvement in Inverine Road.

We had big plans for 2020 ... and the incredible thing is that even though we had to cancel or to re-think many of those plans, with the support of our members and the wider community, we can take pride in having done a lot of big things.

- CCRA Planning Action Group, as part of Charlton Together, scored a notable success in June with the Government's decision to refuse the Rockwell developers' unsuitable plans for high rise flats on Charlton Riverside.
- We held a generously supported pop up food bank collection point every Tuesday from April to September.
- Our Knit and Natter Group turned their hands to making delightful finger puppets for Home-Start Greenwich, a local charity that works with families with young children.

- CCRA's Great Front Garden Challenge - run with the judging expertise of the Blackheath & Greenwich WI - saw 297 homes in our community recognised for the beauty of their front gardens.
- Playing Out started again, and it is wonderful to see so many children using it.
- And we are glad to acknowledge receipt of a grant from Tesco's to support the publication of our much loved newsletter, *Grapevine*.

All of the above could not have been accomplished without an effective system for communication we are grateful to our active members who help us through editing *Grapevine* (Dave Picton, Joy Ogden, Linda Pound and Bob Smith), and manage our website (Chris Harrison), Facebook (Sarah Hornsey) and Twitter accounts (Martina Keating/Duncan Alexander).

As we look back over the past year, we note that we have 253 members, and we are grateful to our Membership Secretary (Jacqui Mitchell) for managing all of the paperwork and keeping us all up to date with GDPR regulations. We would also like to express our thanks to Jodie Coughlan, who stepped down as our Chair in March, and to Martina Keating, Liz Somerville and Peter Somerville, who have stepped down from our Management Committee. We also said 'farewell' to Tim Rutherford-Johnston who co-ordinated Playing Out before his family's move out of London. We are grateful for all they have done for CCRA over many years.

Finally I would like to thank our Vice-Chair, Jane Bland, for all her help, support and enthusiasm over what has been a remarkable year.

We face much uncertainty as we look to the remainder of 2020 and to 2021. But we will do our utmost to carry on doing things that bring us together as a community, either online or in some other creative way as we did with the Great Front Garden Challenge.

CCRA is your association and we depend on your support to help us carry on the activities we have been doing for the past twelve months. So please, renew your membership, and let us know what you would like to see us doing as we look forward to 2021. You can contact me at chair@charltonresidents.org or on 07875 054597.

With best wishes to you and yours,

Jonathan Sanders
Interim Chair, CCRA