

# CHARLTON GRAPEVINE

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The newsletter of the Charlton Central Residents Association



Members of CCRA's Knit and Natter group presenting gifts to QE Hospital (see page 4 for story). Left to right: Maureen O'Sullivan, Brenda Haslam, Teri Stimson (Sister on the ward) Julia Mundy (NHS Trustee) Doreen Gunning, Philippa Chaplin, Brenda Taggart

## It's the bargain of the year!

When it comes to value for money you can't beat membership of CCRA! It cost a fiver when we began in 2007. Then, the price of a pint was just over £2 and petrol cost 90p a litre. Ten years on and it still costs just £5 to join us. What do you get for your money? Well, there's this magazine for a start. So if you haven't already re-joined in 2017, put a fiver in an envelope and send it off. If we already have your details, name and address will suffice, if not the membership form is at the website (<http://www.charltonresidents.org/membership/>) and we'll try to include one with your copy of Grapevine. Ensure that the good work goes on and the letterbox continues to rattle.

We aim – to canvass, represent and promote the views and interests of all residents in the area covered by the Association on issues such as planning, health, transport and the environment, including developing positive relationships with local businesses,

the police and the Council.

We work hard to encourage recreational and social activities for all CCRA residents, to uphold equal opportunities and anti-discriminatory practice and to work for and foster good community relations between all residents.

And CCRA's aim to make this a safer and friendlier neighbourhood is paying off. It costs individual members very little but has benefits for all by: influencing local policy-making through contact with councillors and our MP; persuading council officers of the need to improve our environment – dealing with cracked pavements, litter and fly-tipping, organising clean-up days etc.; monitoring planning applications to ensure they take account of the best interests of the community; maintaining links with our safer neighbourhood policing team and close involvement with Charlton Central Neighbourhood Watch.

### STOP PRESS

Come along to our family ceillidh 6pm to 9pm on 25 February at St Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road. Free supper, live music, dancing and an all round good time. Full details, Page 8

**Three cheers to our stalwart carol singers** who were out in force in December bringing festive cheer to the streets of Charlton. A record £570 was raised from generous residents which will be shared by the food bank and the Charlton Toy Library.



Make a diary date for our Spring Social: Thursday 27 April, St Richard's Hall 7.30 - 9.30.



## Questions remain unanswered as IKEA reveals store design

On 18 January CCRA joined representatives of The Charlton Society, Westcombe Society, Greenwich Society, Blackheath Society, Greenwich Environment Forum and the Enderby Group for a presentation from planners, architects and other IKEA representatives. The meeting was to showcase the design for the new store due to open on the old Sainsbury's site in Summer 2018. The design has some new innovative features (roof pavilion, wood constructions etc.) that go beyond the standard IKEA 'blue box'. While welcoming the opportunity to engage positively with IKEA about the store many questions remained unanswered about the store's impact on traffic and associated issues regarding poor air quality. Watch this space for further updates.

## A new year, and a new outlook

Although the New Year's celebrations are behind us I'd like to take this opportunity to wish everyone in our community health, wealth and happiness for 2017. Last year presented us with a number of challenges both nationally and locally and I hope these will be overcome with optimism and good cheer. Locally, whether you are in favour or opposed to the major development of our riverside we can be united in wanting high quality, good architecture that is responsive to local needs and reflects the uniqueness of Charlton.

This year is CCRA's tenth anniversary, so look out for information on our birthday celebrations. We'd love you to join us. If you haven't already done so, please remember to renew your membership. As a non-profit making organisation all our income subsidises the work we do to make Charlton a safer and friendlier place to live. In 2017 I hope you will join CCRA so together we can celebrate our extraordinary community, value its diversity and continue to improve the lives of our neighbours.  
Brenda Taggart, CCRA Chair



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# Let's Hope it works!

The Anchor and Hope development planning application no. 16/4008/F appeared on Greenwich Council's website on 11 January. With more than 270 documents it's a tough read but an important one as it will have a significant impact on our area. The official 21 days for consultation ended on 1 February but the borough has indicated it will accept comments after that date, although sooner rather than later. Our CCRA planning sleuths have examined the small print:

**T**he scheme proposes nine buildings with 975 residential units, plus other space for mixed use including retail, restaurant, community and leisure. The build period is five years: 2018-2023. The development would be on two plots and is predominantly for high rise, 'stepped' buildings. Only two buildings overall would have six storeys or less. Others would have up to 16 storeys; and a 'landmark building' just to the east of the junction with Bugsby's Way would have 28 storeys. Existing vehicle access from Anchor & Hope Lane would be altered and new pedestrian access, open space and landscaping provided. A maximum of 15% affordable housing is being proposed, as it is claimed that Greenwich's target of 35% would reduce profit on sale to 1.95%, whereas the developer's profit target is 18%.

Much of the impact on those closest to the proposed development is being played down on the grounds that there are only two small residential enclaves along Anchor & Hope Lane. Similarly, the impact on the rest of Charlton is being minimised. Provision of a river pier is not certain. Despite increased passenger number forecasts for Charlton station, it is claimed that there will be no significant impact on the existing rail capacity and that Crossrail will mitigate

the cumulative impact of increased need.

The real impact on education and healthcare provision is not covered. The development is geared towards families, but although a 76-place nursery is planned, there is no primary or secondary school provision and the nearest school mentioned is at Fosdene Road. Although 'a healthcare facility' is mentioned, documents seen so far refer only to a dentist. The nearest GP is quoted as being at the Fairfield practice off Charlton Village.

Other proposed facilities on the site include a swimming pool and gym for site residents, but all occupants will rely on Charlton south of Woolwich Road for rail links, most educational facilities and healthcare. Education and health care facilities might be improved 'later' in Riverside's development, but no one can predict with certainty. It is hoped that public pressure will ensure that RBG looks very closely at the application and insists on better information for, and consideration of local residents. Comments, including the planning application number 16/4008/F, can be sent to The planning officer, Ms Y Medeiros, Directorate of Regeneration, Woolwich Centre, 5th Floor, 35 Wellington Street, London SE18 6HQ. Or e-mail: [yole.medeiros@royalgreenwich.gov.uk](mailto:yole.medeiros@royalgreenwich.gov.uk)

## The Old Cottage Coffee Shop

*A traditional tea shop serving high  
quality tea, coffee & snacks*

*Open everyday from 10am in Charlton Park*



*Closes 4pm in winter  
and 5pm in summer*

## 12 sided £1 coin

The new 12-sided one pound coin that comes into circulation on 28 March 2017 is being mentioned in the press but relatively few people are aware of it and some local residents may be rather confused about the situation. The current £1 coin is being replaced because it is vulnerable to counterfeiters and the Royal Mint says that around one in 30 £1 coins in circulation is a counterfeit. The new coin is thinner and lighter but slightly wider than the old one. Both the new 12-sided coin and the old round one can be used until 15 October 2017, but after that there is no obligation on shops etc to accept the old round coin and they should be deposited in one's account at a bank or post office. Visit <http://www.thenewpoundcoin.com/> for more information.



# 'Bulging bags of bunnies, booties, bears and blankets!'

One chilly day in December, members of CCRA's Knit and Natter group were given a warm reception by nursing staff when they arrived at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Woolwich. The knitters emptied bulging bags, piling up great heaps of bespoke bunnies, bears, blankets and booties on a table in the Neonatal Unit, bearing witness to their dedicated hard work.

Teri Stimson, Nurse Manager and neonatal sister at the hospital, was enthusiastic about the knitted contributions. 'Snuggle bunnies', which are popular with mums, are a valuable way to encourage bonding, she said. The mother keeps one on her body, where the wool absorbs her smell and baby has the other. These are swapped over, which helps to settle the baby, while aiding lactation in its mother. Booties and hats are good for little cold feet and heads, though unnecessary for babies in incubators.

Teri added: 'Mittens are particularly useful when the babies have cannulas in their arms for antibiotics, so they can be covered up and they're not hitting their face with the tubing.'

Blankets are always useful, too, and add a welcome bit of colour but crochet blankets – while lovely – are unsuitable for the babies, whose fingers get caught in them, she said

Teri said: 'We very much appreciate all the things



the knitters bring in as do the parents of the babies we care for. They make the items to the sizes we need and nothing is too much trouble for them.

'We like to give the babies a little gift at Christmas so we fill stockings or make up little bags with the teddies and probably with a blanket this year because we've got a nice supply.

'I'd like to say a huge thank you to the ladies for their time and for thinking of us and being so kind.'

Brenda Taggart, CCRA chair and founder of the group, said they had been knitting together for about two years and everyone loved making things for the babies. She said: 'It gives our hobby a real purpose.' Group members meet for a couple of hours once a month and take what they have worked on in between sessions.

She said: 'We share tips, share patterns and problem solve with Philippa, who is our best knitter. It's a real team effort and we all feel we're doing something really worthwhile.'

Brenda paid tribute to the group's sponsors, the yarn company Rowan, and said: 'They donate a lot of the wool we use and have provided us with some wonderful high quality wool – alpaca merino. All our snuggle bunnies are made with pure alpaca, and all the beautiful alpaca and merino wool booties, hats and teddies are made from the wool they supply. It's important that anything that touches the baby's skin is super-soft and without Rowan's help we'd really be struggling to maintain this high quality. This is really expensive wool and they've been enormously generous in providing what we wanted.'

**The German Master Baker will be visiting  
Wellington Gardens (opposite No.84) in his  
mobile shop**



**Alternate Saturdays between 08.45—9.10am**



# A very special Old Cottage Café Christmas, thanks to Michael and Mim

**M**ichael and Mim of the Old Cottage Café in Charlton Park invited 16 elderly people living in local sheltered housing to have Christmas Day dinner at the café.

Asda, Macro and Charlton residents donated food and drinks for a Christmas dinner with all the trimmings. Supported by a group of volunteers – including some CCRA members – Michael and Mim served a very tasty Christmas dinner. A few extra portions were delivered to residents in sheltered accommodation who weren't mobile enough to join the party.

Everyone involved had a great time and especially the Christmas crackers as well as the raffle when prizes were won and swapped, causing a lot of laughter. New connections were made, phone numbers exchanged and further meetings at the café arranged. Michael said: 'It went well!' And Mim said: 'I was touched by how many people offered to

help.' Thank you from everyone, Michael and Mim, for a lovely afternoon and for bringing the community together.



A snapshot of the festive table on Christmas Day

## A CCRA decade in pictures: can you help?

In September we will be celebrating 10 years of Charlton Central Residents Association and at two of the special events that we are planning, we would like to display photographs showing our activities throughout that time.

If you have photographs of any CCRA events that you could pass on to us and would like to include

please email them to [events@charltonresidents.org](mailto:events@charltonresidents.org) by the end of June.

We can only accept your pictures by email as we shall need to mount them and therefore will not be able to return them. We hope you can help and hope you will join in the celebrations.

## Vandals have a smashing time

During the week of the 9 January, Delafield Road residents woke to find a number of their car windows smashed in and the road covered in broken glass.

Although it is cold comfort to those affected it wasn't the only road involved in this mindless criminal behaviour. Similar attacks have been reported across Charlton and in the area around Kidbrooke Station.

This type of crime is rare and random and therefore difficult to solve. If anyone has any information about these incidents please call the police on 101. If you see anyone acting suspiciously or witness any anti-social behaviour please try to get a good description of the perpetrators and let the police know as soon as you can.

CCTV footage can be particularly helpful and local intelligence can be especially useful to the police when they are trying to apprehend these criminals.



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# How happy is my valley?

## ...A view from the terraces

It's been 21 long years since we last beat Millwall and January 2017 proved another disappointment when we were held to a 0-0 draw at the Valley. For sixteen of those years we have been in different divisions but nonetheless the fact that we last took local bragging rights at the Valley in 1996 with a 2-0 victory, cuts deep into the soul of the true 'Addick.

Yet it might have been so different two months ago. Half way through the second half, following a goalmouth skirmish, Millwall keeper Jordan Archer went to kick the ball and completely missed it. Quick-witted Bauer seized the opportunity and flashed it into the net.

A clear goal. But the misguided referee thought Bauer had shoved the keeper and disallowed it, so we went unrewarded. A cruel blow but, on balance the scoreline reflected the state of play.

In pure football terms it was a game to forget but it did post up some interesting observations for the aficionado. Tony Watt, he of the troubled personality, returned from a long loan spell in Scotland and was immediately put on the bench. He wasn't there long for our current outstanding player, Josh Magennis picked up an ankle injury and was stretchered off after just 11 minutes. So Mr Watt was quickly back on the pitch to the applause of adoring fans. Despite not being fully fit he soon reminded Millwall that he is a force to be reckoned with and caused plenty of bother up front.

At the back, first team keeper Declan Rudd returned from a long-term injury and was immediately able to demonstrate why he is considered the best keeper in the division.

Tough luck on his understudy Dillon Phillips who has worn the keeper's shirt with outstanding success in the intervening months. Despite rarely putting a foot wrong, he has to go back on the sub's bench to make way. We also saw the return from injury of our star player Ricky Holmes. He immediately posed a threat with his route one attacking style of football.

Ricky will be needed in the ensuing games as we bring this year's contest to a close. As I write we are still doing ok. We've played 26 games, won eight, drawn ten and lost six. The home match against second placed Scunthorpe will be a tough pointer in that direction.

Manager Karl Robinson is forging the squad he wants, though injury problems dog his progress. But with new signings in the January window we still have a fair shot at promotion.

Finally, hats off to Ademola Lookman who left Charlton in January for Everton. In his first match, against Man City, he came on as a sub and within four minutes had slotted his first goal and Everton's fourth. Congratulations to a talented young man.

Congratulations for his continued success and an upturn in fortunes at the Valley. COYR's!

## Breathing space

Arrangements are underway for the next Air Quality survey of the CCRA area. Twenty special tubes were being erected around the neighbourhood at the end of January and they will remain in situ for a month.

This is to monitor the nitrogen dioxide in the air for those sites. The results, when gathered, will be a snapshot for that month and can be dependent upon weather and other conditions.

But it will enable us to compare measurements taken over the past couple of years. We'll be reporting on this and other air quality related issues in the next edition of Grapevine.



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# *I heard it on the Grapevine*

## **Book group**

The CCRA Book Group started off the New Year at its January meeting with *Gilead* by Marilynne Robinson. This Pulitzer Prize winning novel was described by critics as 'as big as a nation, as quiet as thought, and moving as prayer. Matchless and towering'. One of our members commented that whilst they enjoyed its measured pace and portrayal of a life over generations, they also found it very sad and emotional, and could only read it in short bursts. Our next book is Rose Tremain's latest novel, the *Gustav Sonata*. Set in the Second World War, it tells of the friendship between a young Swiss boy and a talented and musical Jewish boy. 'A breathtakingly radiant story of an unlikely childhood friendship that survives the test of time'.

## **Singing group**

We had another very successful round of carol singing in December and raised £570 which will be divided between the Greenwich Food Bank and Charlton Toy Library. Thanks to all who took part, and to everyone who gave so generously. We resumed our regular sessions on 12 January and the remaining sessions up till Easter are: 13, 27 February; 13, 27 March. New members are always welcome and there is no auditioning process. If you would like to join us contact Chris on 020 8858 7377.

## **Music Group ('SE7')**

Sessions resumed on 23 January and the next will be on 20 February, 6 & 20 March. We will be playing for the CCRA Family Ceilidh on 27 February, and at Cattleya on 29 January and 26 February, so a busy time ahead! We are always interested in gaining new members and would especially like to hear from players of melody instruments – strings, woodwind or brass. Music reading is not essential. If you are interested in joining the group, whatever your level of experience or expertise, please contact Chris on 020 8858 7377.

## **Knit and Natter**

Whether a novice or expert knitter, come along to the group for more than just a craft session. While specialising in charity knits, members of the group also bring along their own knitting projects. And we experiment with some fantastic yarns, courtesy of our sponsors: Rowan Wool. Sessions not only provide advice and guidance on all aspects of knitting, we

also have some pretty entertaining natter (some come along for the natter alone!). Sessions are on Tuesdays from 2pm to 4pm at St Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road on the following dates: 28 February, 28 March and 18 April. For more information about the group contact [brendataggart49@gmail.com](mailto:brendataggart49@gmail.com)

## **Walking group**

December's walk was particularly seasonal, ending with a visit to the Geffrye Museum for their annual exhibition of homes through the ages at Christmas. To get there we walked through well known areas of the East End - Petticoat Lane, Brick Lane, Shoreditch, etc including Arnold Circus - the area made famous by the books of Arthur Morrison called the Jago (the BBC had thoughtfully decided to show an edition of their 'The Secret History of Our Streets' series on the area the week before our visit!). January's was a comparatively short walk from Anchor & Hope Lane, along the Thames and up through Maryon Wilson and Charlton Parks but stopping en route at the new access to Gilbert's Pit which we had arranged to have open for our visit. This Heritage Lottery funded project gives schools and community groups access to this unique geological Site of Special Scientific Interest via a series of easily accessible wooden steps. Our next walks are on 12 February and 12 March starting at 10.30am. To be included in (or taken off) the email list contact Jill at [jillmo@btinternet.com](mailto:jillmo@btinternet.com)



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## Dates for your diary

### Saturday 25 February

Family Ceilidh,  
St Richard's Hall, 6.00 – 9.00 pm  
For full details see page below

### Thursday 27 April

Spring Social  
St Richard's Hall, 7.30 – 9.30  
Watch this space for details

### Sunday 7 May

Open Gardens  
Watch this space for details

### Sunday 4 June

Big Lunch, Charlton Park  
Watch this space for details

### Saturday 1 July

Community Day  
CCRA's big clean up day  
Watch this space for details

### Friday 15 September – Sunday 17 September

CCRA's 10th Anniversary Weekend  
A range of activities including flower and produce;  
open gardens, members' barbecue and much more  
Don't miss it!

### Thursday 5 October

CCRA AGM  
St Richard's Hall 7.30 – 9.30  
Watch this space for details

### Saturday 14 October

Quiz Night  
St Richard's Hall 7.30 – 10.00  
Watch this space for details

## Forthcoming events

### You say Barn Dance, we say Ceilidh

The CCRA held its first ceilidh this time last year.



Everyone enjoyed it then and we're having another this year so get ready to dance! Don't worry if you don't know what to

do when you arrive, our very own Chris Harrison will be the caller and he will help you – in his kindly, skilful way – to put your best foot forward. If you don't feel like dancing you can enjoy the good company, great music and bar with free slap up curry (veggie and non-veggie) supper. Put the date in your diary and come along to join neighbours and friends – and neighbours who will become friends in a fun-filled evening – on Saturday, 25 February from 6pm to 9pm

at St Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road. Tickets are £4 for members and £5 for non-members, with £1 for children aged up to and including 11 and under 3s free. Do come and join us – non-members are very welcome – though it might be cheaper in the long run if you joined in advance!

### Playing out

The next sessions will be once a month, rather than once a fortnight – on 8 February and 8 March. After that we'll try to revert to sessions every other week. But don't forget – we need five stewards for every session to ensure that children are safe. If you could help to steward from time to time please help. Ring Linda on 020 8858 7377 for further details.

### Community Gardens

The February meeting of the Charlton Society will present a talk by members of Charlton Community Gardens – A History of Gardens and Growing in Charlton – Saturday 18 February from 2.30 in the Grand Salon at Charlton House. We will be talking about what was happening in 18th and 19th century farming and market gardening, describing the estates and gardens of the 'big houses' such as East Combe and Bramhope Lodge, how allotments expanded particularly during WW1 and WW2, memories of people who grew up locally. And of course the importance of community growing spaces these days!

### Jewellery

Following the wonderful Handmade in Charlton event, we are thinking of starting up a jewellery group. If, like us, you possess many boxes of beads and another box of unfinished projects, then this is an opportunity to reduce both! We plan to meet one evening per month for a couple of hours (day to be agreed), which might also produce extra items for next year's Handmade in Charlton. If you are interested please let me know – (juliamundy@hotmail.com)

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Comments, feedback, queries or material for the next edition of Grapevine should be emailed to: [grapevine@charltonresidents.org](mailto:grapevine@charltonresidents.org) by 20 March. Alternatively, phone Joy Ogden on 0208 293 3034 or Bob Smith on 0208 853 2697