

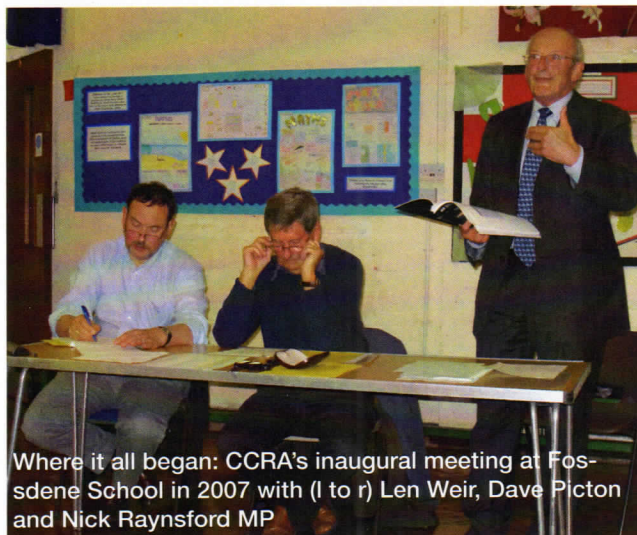
## Happy 10th Birthday to CCRA!

It started with a fire in Wellington Gardens – serious enough to lead neighbours to call on friends and acquaintances and start to discuss how to make our area safer and friendlier. A small group of people met informally for several months to plan what could be done. Early in 2007, in two well-attended meetings at St Richard's Hall, people gathered in groups according to the street where they lived, talking and getting to know one another. Their suggestions led to a meeting at Fossdene School, attended by councillors and Nick Raynsford, then our MP, where people were invited to stand for the management committee. CCRA has never looked back.

Colin Brown, then living in Wellington Gardens, was elected as the first CCRA chair at the opening committee meeting. Our first members' bulletin was circulated in November 2007. It listed the fourteen most pressing concerns identified at those early meetings and actions to be taken, regarding: improvements to the environment; monitoring planning developments; community safety (then called law and order). The bulletin outlined a programme of social activities with a newsletter and website to improve communications and considered revenue streams to support the Association, including fund raising and advertising in the newsletter.

The first newsletter, Grapevine, was distributed to homes in all the streets included in the CCRA area in January 2008. Its lead story was about Thames Water and it was a single sheet of A3, 800 copies of which were painstakingly copied on a low grade photocopier by two committee members.

There have since been many planning meetings and discussions. We have established community day, through which CCRA works with the council to improve the quality of our environment while our community safety and Neighbourhood Watch group



Where it all began: CCRA's inaugural meeting at Fossdene School in 2007 with (l to r) Len Weir, Dave Picton and Nick Raynsford MP

works closely with the police to alert residents to burglaries and other crime in the neighbourhood. We have a full programme of social events and have helped local interest groups to get established – including the Charlton Community Gardens group. The band, SE7, plays regularly at Cattleya and all CCRA events and the singers take every opportunity to sing to anyone who'll listen. In addition to bulletins, newsletters and a website we now have social media accounts.

Nick Raynsford sent us a message, saying: "I can hardly believe that 10 years have passed since the CCRA was formed, and I congratulate everyone involved in what you have achieved over those 10 years.

"The need for an effective local voice promoting the interests of the community is stronger than ever, and in the years to come, with so many potential opportunities and challenges facing you in Charlton, your Association will continue to have a vitally important role to play. I wish you a happy 10th anniversary celebration and every success in the future."

If you were one of those who attended our inaugural meetings back in 2007 we'd love to hear from you. If you're new to the area or the organisation come to our birthday weekend events and play your part in making Charlton Central a safer, friendlier place.

### STOP PRESS

Don't forget to get your entries in for the photographic competition and the Flower and Produce show. Full details in the last Grapevine and on our website [www.charltonresidents.org](http://www.charltonresidents.org)

✿ RBG has now concluded negotiations with the new firm commissioned to build the Charlton Park Skatepark. Work is due to start in October for an opening early in 2018.



# Get informed, have your say, play your part at CCRA's 2017 AGM

On Thursday 5 October, CCRA will be holding its 10th Annual General Meeting. Following the formal business we will report briefly on the results of this year's CCRA independent air quality monitoring exercise and focus on 'greening' with presentations on CCRA's Greening Ward Budget Grant by CCRA chair, Brenda Taggart, Growing at Charlton Station and the Community Orchard, by Judy Wolfram and all you need to know about the history of allotments in Charlton by Caroline Love, Charlton Community Gardens.

## **Charlton Central Residents' Association Annual General Meeting**

Thursday 5 October at 7.30pm  
St Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road  
Agenda

1. Welcome and introduction
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 6 October 2016. These are available on the CCRA website ([charltonresidents.org](http://charltonresidents.org)) or from the Chair 0208 853 3354
4. Matters arising
5. Report from the Chair of the Association
6. Report from the Secretary
7. Report from the Treasurer including statement of accounts and Auditor's report
8. Any proposed changes to the constitution. These require a two thirds majority and must have been submitted in writing to the Chair chair@charltonresidents.org/49 Delafield Road by Thursday 14 September.
9. Election of officers: Chair, Vice-chair, Secretary and Treasurer.  
Nominations for officers must be submitted in writing, proposed and seconded, to the Chair Brenda Taggart 49 Delafield Road or chair@charltonresidents.org by 8.00 pm on Thursday 28 September.
10. Election of management committee (MC). Please consider joining MC or nominate a neighbour. We need active members to enhance CCRA's work. Nomination can be submitted to chair@charltonresidents.org in advance or you can sign up on the night.
11. Resolutions: These require a two thirds majority and written submission must be submitted to the Chair by Thursday 14 September.
12. Any other business.

Everyone in the CCRA area can attend the AGM and the rest of the evening but only paid up full members can vote, make nominations or submit resolutions. Those attending may join the Association on the night. Associate members are not eligible to vote.

## **Down by the Riverside - and more**

Previous Grapevines have highlighted plans to develop Charlton Riverside. Following years of consultations, public meetings, letter writing and debate we finally have an agreed plan. On 21 June 2017 the Royal Borough of Greenwich's (RBG) Cabinet adopted the updated Charlton Riverside Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document. Associated with this are two commissioned research studies: The Charlton Riverside Employment and Heritage Study and the Woolwich Road: Light public and highways improvements. The Masterplan details plans for a mixed-use urban quarter and provides clear planning guidance for sustainable regeneration in line with RBG's Core Strategy. Planned are 5,000-7,000 new homes (35% affordable), in low to medium rise (3-6 storeys) rising to 10 storeys. The proposed district centre at Anchor and Hope Lane will create a new High Street, with shops, offices, and health and community facilities. For full information see [http://www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/downloads/download/433/charlton\\_riverside\\_masterplan](http://www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/downloads/download/433/charlton_riverside_masterplan). If you are interested in planning and want to become more involved tell us by emailing secretary@charltonresidents.org

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## Join us on social media!

CCRA is developing a presence on both twitter and Facebook, and we'd like to encourage you to follow us.

We're using our twitter account to give details of our own forthcoming events and other local items of interest, so following us will help you keep abreast of all things local. You can find us at @ccra\_se7. On Facebook we are posting a whole range of items of interest, including pictures of our green areas and some delicious recipes! With our Tenth Anniversary approaching in September, we're particularly interested in people sharing things that have happened in our area over the last ten years, so if you have anything of interest please let us know. We're at <https://www.facebook.com/centralcharlton>



## Have your say on transport links

Despite a massive increase in population along the Woolwich Road due to housing developments, TfL are consulting on a new bus scheme that will see a DECREASE in service for those of us who travel to Greenwich/Lewisham by the 180. The current plan is to terminate this service at North Greenwich. TfL are consulting on this proposal and alterations to other services around Woolwich. You can object to this scheme by completing the TfL consultation at <https://consultations.tfl.gov.uk/buses/elizabeth-line> until 17 September. Have your say and point out to TfL that with an increase in population we need more transport infrastructure, not less.

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## Such a fruitful community

Charlton Community Gardens started in 2011 with a £50 grant from CCRA. Using this seed money we held open meetings and attracted local people who were keen to create a community garden. One of those recruits wrote the bid to the RHS that secured the £1880 used to establish the garden at Charlton Station. We hope to involve Charlton Park Academy in extending the garden on the station.

More recently we have successfully obtained funding from Greggs Foundation to establish a community orchard in Charlton Park—but more about this next scheme when we see you at the AGM on 5 October.

It's not all been plain sailing. The most dispiriting thing is the vandalism that has destroyed plants and interrupted our water supply on the station. But we know that with the helpful interventions of our neighbours, this sort of thing can be stopped. Please contact us through the website [www.charltoncommunitygardens.org.uk](http://www.charltoncommunitygardens.org.uk) if you have any concerns.

Do help yourself to herbs and produce - as we say to the children who love the soft fruit - leaving some for someone else. Enjoy the bounty and make changes in your own garden to grow what you eat. Gardening is part of community life in Charlton. And CCG always welcomes new volunteers.

## Playing out

This fortnightly session contributes to making the neighbourhood safer and friendlier. The section of Sundorne Road between Priolo Road and Swallowfield Road is closed to traffic so that children can play safely. Sessions begin after school - around 3.45 and usually go on until 5.00 or 5.30 when children are tired and hungry. A minimum of four stewards are needed for every session so we're always looking for volunteers. If you can spare a bit of time - occasionally or regularly - contact Liz on [playingoutse7@gmail.com](mailto:playingoutse7@gmail.com). The next session is Wednesday 6 September - and on alternate Wednesdays after that.

## Welcome to Rev Liz Newman

Over the last 10 years, CCRA has had strong links with St Thomas Benefice, who own and manage St Richard's Hall in Swallowfield Road where many of our community events are held. We warmly welcome and look forward to working with the Reverend Liz Newman as the new Rector of Charlton, who has been a member of the Parochial Parish Council for a number of years and whose institution took place last month.



# Pictures of the past and thoughts of the future...

## CCRA 10TH ANNIVERSARY

I am delighted to introduce our 10th Anniversary Grapevine. As someone who attended the Association's public launch, I little thought that 10 years later I'd be the Chair of an organisation that has truly made a difference to our community.

Looking back over that time, we have improved the visual environment by our cleaning and greening, kept neighbours in touch through the much loved Grapevine and cemented community relations through our many social gatherings. Out of CCRA has grown the Charlton Central Neighbourhood Watch that addresses issues of community safety. Our Singing Group and Band have brought joy to many and our Walking group helps us keep fit. Our Playing Out scheme, Flower and Produce Show and the Knit and Natter and Book groups demonstrate our commitment to all age groups.

Equally important has been the work we do behind the scenes in liaising with Councillors and Council Officers on issues of street cleaning and maintenance, air quality, traffic management, planning applications and supporting individual members when they need to get something done.

I pay homage to all those who have worked tirelessly on your behalf, especially the present and past members of the Management Committee and those who have led both Action and Interest groups. The deep commitment to our neighbourhood shown by these active members has made CCRA a thriving force for good.

As we look forward to the next 10 years we know that CCRA works best when people get involved. Working together we can achieve so much more than on our own and volunteering has many proven benefits. If you value what CCRA has done then please get involved. You don't have to make a massive time commitment and whatever your contribution, you will be making a difference to fulfilling our founding aim of making Charlton Central a safe and friendly place to live. So Happy Birthday CCRA and here's to another 10 years.

Brenda Taggart



Just a taster of some CCRA group activities, social events and general jollities from the last 10 years. Naming no names... anti-clockwise from top left: members of the walking group decide where to go; walkers on a sunny day stop off for a drink; time for the annual Big Lunch in Charlton Park, with live music, good food and neighbours to share the fun; SE7 play at one of their regular gigs at Cattleya; Neighbourhood Watch are setting up shop; a Sunday cycling trip is fun and keeps you fit; organisers of the Jubilee street party toast your health!





# *I heard it on the Grapevine*

## **Community interest groups**

### **Singing Group**

The singing group was formed in 2008 and is open to anyone in the CCRA area. There is no audition process, and no need to read music. We meet fortnightly, but it is not necessary for everyone to attend every session as the focus is on singing for enjoyment rather than rehearsing for performance.

The repertoire is largely chosen by members of the group and has included popular songs, folk songs, madrigals, rounds and songs from different cultural traditions.

We have given a few public performances, mainly at CCRA socials but also at other local events.

One of our regular activities is to go carol singing in December around our neighbourhood, raising money for local charities. Since 2012 we have raised over £2000 for organisations including Blind Independence Greenwich, Greenwich Carers Centre, Greenwich Foodbank, Charlton Toy Library and Greenwich Dementia Carers.

We always welcome new members. For further information, please contact Chris on 020 8858 7377.

### **Instrumental Music Group**

The band is open to anyone in the area who plays any instrument at any level. We hold regular sessions on alternate Mondays. Reading music is not essential. Repertoire is chosen by group members, and has included jazz standards, folk music and music from many different cultural traditions.

We give occasional public performances, under the name 'SE7'. These include playing at CCRA events and our regular Sunday evenings at Cattleya, in Charlton Church Lane. These performances are open to any members of the group who feel confident to join in either for the whole session or for particular pieces. We have also played at the Horn Fair, St Luke's Church summer concert, and ceilidhs for CCRA and others.

We always welcome new members. For further information, please contact Chris on 020 8858 7377.

### **Knit and Natter**

The Knit and Natter group have been supporting the Age UK's campaign by knitting over 150 little hats for Innocent Smoothie bottles. Each hat attracts a donation which will go towards providing support for senior citizens during the cold winter months.

Come along to our monthly sessions, relax and enjoy excellent natter, tea and biscuits alongside learning/improving your knitting. Meetings are the following Tuesdays – 26 September, 31 October, 28 November and 19 December from 2pm to 4pm in St Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road.

### **Book Group**

We've just finished *The Essex Serpent* by Sara Perry. This has been a hugely popular book – Costa winner, Waterstone's, WH Smith, The Times, Richard & Judy – but not with our group. We thoroughly dissected this 'gothic' novel but felt the characters were a bit thin, and the major themes of the Victorian age were glossed over. But do read it..... we could be wrong! We're ploughing through Napoleon's *Last Island* (by Australian author Tom Keneally) and gearing ourselves up to look at the Mann Booker Longlist at the end of the summer.

If you are interested in challenging reading, we have some spaces for CCRA members to join us - do contact Zoe on [Zoe31well@hotmail.com](mailto:Zoe31well@hotmail.com)

### **Walking Group**

In June we took the ferry to North Woolwich, past the former North Woolwich Railway Station and the Tate & Lyle refinery. Silvertown was an important Victorian industrial area, tragically remembered for a massive explosion of 50 tons of TNT at a munitions factory in 1917. We continued past the new home of Brick Lane Music Hall and City Airport, to the beautiful Barrier gardens. After a very pleasant break at the cafe, we continued past the massive Millennium Mills, crossed the Royal Victoria Dock and past the Excel Centre to then enjoy the views from the cable car as it took us back to Greenwich.

Our July walk was a section of the Green Chain Walk we had not previously attempted. Starting at Bostall Woods we walked through to Plumstead Cemetery and on to East Wickham Open Space (a huge grassy area off Shooters Hill with a wide range of bird, butterfly and flower species).

We meet at Charlton Station at 10am for our walks and welcome newcomers; our pace is not fast and we always end the walk where we can get refreshments. It's best to wear comfortable, strong shoes, bring water and appropriate clothes for the day's weather. More details from Jill at [jillmo@btinternet.com](mailto:jillmo@btinternet.com)



### In memoriam

We were very sorry to hear of the death of Bruce Buchan, husband to Barbara – one of our committee members. Our sincere condolences go to Barbara, their daughter Laura, son Tom and his wife Rachel. Bruce and Barbara have lived in Charlton for over 30 years.

### Community Day

Our first community day was held in July 2009, when over 50 people turned out to help clean up our streets. This year there were fewer volunteers but no less efficient and enthusiastic. Next year's community day will probably be the first Saturday in July – put that in your diary so you can come and help clear up unsightly rubbish.

We also try to improve some of our green spaces – a theme we will highlight throughout this year. Come to the AGM on 5 October to hear our plans and make suggestions for spending the new council grant. This year we had a freecycle allowing residents to offload stuff they no longer needed and pick up a bargain. Remaining items went to The Mental Health Activity Trust, a local charity. CCRA paid-up members could also have bulky items such as old sofas and fridges removed without charge by the council – a big saving. Please try to help us keep our streets clean. Don't leave rubbish in your garden or on the street, to attract vermin and create potential health hazards. People are less likely to dump rubbish in well-maintained, clean environments.

### CLASSIFIED ADS

#### Silver Stage Drama for 50+

Fun Drama Classes for 50+ in Charlton House. All levels of mobility, beginners welcome. Contact Tonya 07739 916 536 / french.tonya@yahoo.com / 50plusdrama.london

#### Jane's Supper Club

A themed evening of food and fun, happening in a street near you. Exciting, home-cooked food: £30 per head, a cocktail on arrival, 3 courses. Byob Contact Jane Loftin for further information at jaenloftin@gmail.com

Grapevine reaches more than 1,000 homes and retail outlets, in our designated area and beyond. To advertise contact grapevine@charltonresidents.org. Rates for individuals and small businesses: small ads up to 15 words plus contact details: £10 for 1 issue, £30 for 4. Panel ads single column 8cmx8cm: £40 for 1-4 issues, £35 for 5+. Other sizes please enquire.

Comments, feedback, queries or material for the next edition of Grapevine should be emailed to: grapevine@charltonresidents.org by 13 November. Alternatively, phone Joy Ogden on 0208 293 3034 or Bob Smith on 0208 853 2697

### Charlton Neighbourhood Watch news

**A**fter the horrific attacks in Manchester and London we are sharing security advice from the National Police Chiefs' Council. If caught up in a terrorist attack their advice is to: RUN, HIDE, TELL. RUN to a place of safety. This is a far better option than to surrender or negotiate. If there's nowhere to go, then... HIDE It's better to hide than to confront. Remember to turn your phone to silent and turn off vibrate. Barricade yourself in if you can. Finally and only when it is safe to do so... TELL the police by calling 999

Watch the police's Stay Safe film at [www.npcc.police.uk/staysafe](http://www.npcc.police.uk/staysafe). Information is vital in combating terrorism. If you see or hear something that could be terrorist related, trust your instincts and call the confidential Anti-Terrorist hotline on 0800 789 321. Specially trained officers will take it from there. Your call could save lives. In an emergency always call 999.

We aspire to have a CCNWatch Co-ordinator in all streets in the CCRA area and need volunteers to join the co-ordinators' group. Can you spare an hour or so, every two months? It isn't demanding but is very interesting. Help to make our neighbourhood safe and friendly. Email your contact details to [mail@ccnwatch.org](mailto:mail@ccnwatch.org) and we'll send more details.

CCNWatch Co-ordinators - see <http://ccnwatch.org/> We have co-ordinators in the following roads: Calydon – Dhesi -07816 548 581; Delafield – Annie 0208 305 1484; Brenda 07939 090 676; & Jodie 07823 777 152; Inverine – Cathy 0208 488 2188 and Jonathan 07875 054 597; Nadine/Gollogly – Lydia 07956 207155; Priolo – Tamara 0208 333 1657

### 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*



## Dates for your diary

### Wednesday 6 September

Playing out in Sundorne Road

Starts at around 3.45 and usually finishes around 5.00 or 5.30 depending on weather and children's energy levels

Parents are responsible for their children.

### Friday 15 – Sunday 17 September

CCRA's 10th Anniversary Weekend

#### Friday: Birthday reception

The photographic competition will be judged during the evening

**Saturday:** Flower & Produce show; members' barbecue (ticketed)

#### Sunday: Open Gardens

and an evening with SE7 at Cattleya (ticketed)

Join us in the celebration! For all ticketed events reserve a ticket (first come first served) by emailing [events@charltonresidents.org](mailto:events@charltonresidents.org)

#### Thursday 5 October

CCRA's AGM (see page 2 for details)

St Richard's Hall 7.30 – 9.30 pm. Celebrate 10 years by getting involved in the 11th

#### Saturday 14 October

Quiz Night St Richard's Hall 7.30 – 10.00 Doors open at 7.00

## In memoriam: Elaine Picton

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Elaine Picton, who died recently after a long illness. Her funeral was attended by many who had worked with her to establish CCRA.



Elaine was a keen member of our local singing group and a large group of regulars sang at Mycenae House following the service.

Elaine's death is particularly poignant as CCRA celebrates its tenth anniversary since it was Elaine, together with her husband Dave, who helped set up the organisation. Elaine was both a CCRA committee member and membership secretary for some years. She was actively involved in many of CCRA's social activities. Even last September, though seriously ill, Elaine won the award for the best in show item at the Flower and Produce Show.

In her professional life and in the life of our community Elaine is someone who has made a difference. Her vitality and enthusiasm will be greatly missed in our area but above all by her husband Dave, her son Daniel, daughter Lucy and by her four grandchildren.

Michael John  
Partner

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