

# CHARLTON GRAPEVINE

VINTAGE 53 Signal June 2019

The newsletter of the Charlton Central Residents Association



#### **GARDENERS' QUESTION TIME**

There was a sunshine welcome for all CCRA members on 19 May when six different neighbours' gardens were available to view. Every year the wonder of our Open Gardens event is how very different our gardens are – small, large, informal, some minimally managed and others rigorously tended. One garden had table tennis and all offered refreshments. If you didn't manage to join in, try a visit next year. It's a great way to pick up gardening ideas and socialise. Guests in Wellington Gardens asked for an old Canadian recipe, known as matrimonial cake. (See Page 5 for details). The Open Gardens event is only open to paid up members of CCRA so don't forget to renew or to join now. See page 3 for details.

# GET MOVING, GET ACTIVE ...

If you want to get fit, fit in a visit to CCRA's Community Day in St Richard's Hall on 6 July for some brief workshops on free exercise classes available in the Royal Borough of Greenwich

Sarah Crossman is the Health Improvement Specialist who coordinates the borough's 'Active for Health' programme, which provides a wide range of physical activity sessions aimed at improving the health and wellbeing of local residents over the age of 50. She will be demonstrating and inviting people to participate in taster sessions at our Community Day, probably including simple exercises to improve muscle strength, also line dancing and some chair-based exercises.

She says: "We have a really varied range of classes, from gentle routines with music to more active ones and through to Tai Chi. Ages range from 50 to 100 – and some of our older ones are fitter than some of our younger ones!

"They come for all sorts of reasons – obviously to improve their fitness and a lot who want to remain independent. I think the biggest thing they get is the sense of community – making friends – people notice when they aren't there. Some come once a week, some come four times a week. It becomes part of people's daily routine."

Sarah said the instruction team, whose ages range from 46 to their 70s, have all been teaching exercises for more than ten years and are a great asset. They are all

STOP PRESS There were scenes of jubilation at Wembley on 26 May when Charlton beat Sunderland in the League One Playoff final to gain promotion to the Championship.

Full details: Page 10

# Get along to our Community Day

highly qualified and between them hold lots of specialised qualifications, such as cardiac rehab exercises for stroke and falls prevention exercises.

She added: "They are exceptional. They go the extra mile and really care about the people they teach... the whole thing feels like a community and everybody is welcome. When anybody new comes, everybody welcomes them – you are not a newcomer for very long!"

Sarah, who lives in Sidcup, follows her own advice about exercising. As the 'Active for Health' programme manager, she is also office based with tasks that include monitoring the tutors and arranging risk assessment of venues but, as well as delivering four exercise classes to music each week, she says she tends to cycle to work in Woolwich and in Coldharbour then run the four and a half miles home.

She says: "It's a great way to make a living, I am honoured to be doing what I am doing."

Active for Health offers more than 50 individual exercise sessions a week, free to adults over 50 who live in the Royal Borough of Greenwich or are registered with a GP there and interested in becoming more physically active. For details, call 0800 587 5833 or visit www.livewellgreenwich.org.uk

Don't forget, Saturday 6 July is CCRA's Community Day. Join us at St Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road at 10am to help spruce up our streets, then enjoy a free lunch.

For full details of activities, including taster exercise sessions

SEE PAGE 6







# Your CCRA 2019 membership – please renew urgently or join now

Many thanks to all who have paid their membership for 2019, brilliant response particularly from Delafield Road, and welcome to our new members. CCRA continues to grow.

The Membership Fee is our core funding for all our activities and the production of the Grapevine. It is therefore crucial to all that we do. Membership fees are due in January each year.

Please can those who have not renewed their membership for 2019 do so as soon as possible and at latest by end of June.

Under the new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) members have to actively opt in to an organisation where personal data is held. We require you

to complete our new membership form agreeing that we will hold your personal details and can send you communications like the Bulletin or emails. This only needs to be done every three years and renewal will be a lot simpler next year.

Unfortunately, if you do not renew your membership by the end of June we will no longer be able to communicate with you. We hope this does not happen and that you will continue to support your local Residents' Association.

■ Membership Forms are available on our website http://www.charltonresidents.net > How to Join CCRA. By email membership@charltonresidents.net or from 83 Swallowfield Road.

## STAMPS AT THE STATION

A special thanks to our neighbours who correspond with Canada, the USA, Ireland and Thailand for all their wonderful donated stamps. Used stamps from home and abroad can be put into the envelope attached to the CCRA Community Book Case in the Charlton Station ticket office (attached to the Community Book Case). The stamps support the Royal National Institute for the Blind who provide not only guide dogs but aids for those who are visually impaired. It's the little things in life that can make a BIG difference.

#### SUMMER SECURITY

The Met stats show a spike in burglaries in the CCRA area. Now the weather is warming up it is easy to forget to close ground floor windows and lock sheds after returning the garden chairs. Please take extra precautions to secure your home during the summer particularly as we have information that there is a 'garden hopper' in the neighbourhood. If you have been burgled it is important, even if the stolen goods are of little value, that you report this to the police. Simple prevention is better than having to call 101.

#### WATCH OUT -BIKES ABOUT

There has been increased concern about the number of cyclists taking to the pavements around our streets. The police were clear that it is an offence to ride a bike on the pavement and while they exercise discretion in particular circumstances (eg children cyclists) they are able to issue penalty fines for those who endanger pedestrians. If you are taking your bike out then please keep to cycle paths, be prepared to push your bike on the pavement or you could risk a fine.

### Grapevine

Comments, feedback, queries or material for the next edition of *Grapevine* should be emailed to: grapevine@charltonresidents.net by 22 July. Alternatively, phone Joy Ogden on 020 8293 3034 or Bob Smith on 020 8853 2697.

Grapevine reaches more than 1,000 homes and retail outlets, in our designated area and beyond. To advertise contact grapevine@charltonresidents.net. 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.

Check your local noticeboard, the next *Grapevine*, our website (please note new address charltonresidents.net); Twitter (@ccra\_se7) and Facebook (www. facebook.com/centralcharlton) for details of CCRA events.



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#### PLANNING UPDATE

## Council investigates new housing

The council is investigating a large number of sites that it owns throughout the borough where it might be possible to develop council housing.

One of them is land behind Nadine Street and Elliscombe Road. Looking at a map might suggest there is space, but there is a very steep incline, large numbers of very mature trees and a history of contamination. We await a report back.

Land adjacent to Wellington Gardens, and behind 111-113 Victoria Way, has been subject to previous development proposals, which have been turned down by the council. This time there is an application for three houses and two flats on the site, which is covered with trees,

some of which are protected. It is likely to go to a planning committee this summer, when it is expected the recommendation will be for refusal. Application ref. 19/0755/F.

There is a recent application to turn a ground floor shop at 60 Charlton Church Lane into two units: a one bed flat and a studio flat. Ref19/1689/F.

A more modest proposal for one flat next door at 62 was turned down last year but the applicant has appealed to the planning inspectorate. Result expected soon.

Proposals at two local pubs, the Antigallican and the White Horse are still outstanding. Permission has been granted for six houses behind the Pickwick, subject to green screening of a neighbouring property.





# THE UNOBTRUSIVE FAIRFIELD TOWER

The 10 storey tower on the second stage of the Fairfield development in Victoria Way climbs up above surrounding trees. CCRA opposed the extra floors, making it higher than the stage one building nearer the motorway, but we were assured it would not be obtrusive.

# Tending our environment

CCRA has a small environment action group (EAG) which we are hoping to build up. And, as the name suggests, we're about doing not just talking.

Recently we've tidied up and weeded the alleyway at the end of Delafield Road, trimmed back the plants and painted the wall at the top of Nadine Street and trimmed the planter at the bottom of Wellington Mews. We're mapping the trees in all our streets, aiming to identify tree 'pits' around the bottom of trees for guerrilla gardening, and we hope to establish and develop a greening trail for children starting with what's been done at Gollogly Terrace Garden.

If you are green fingered, enjoy gardening, or follow local and national environment debates, or if you would like to help make a video blog of this summer's activities, please get in touch.

The EAG will meet for a walk around for about 45 minutes once a month beginning on Thursday, 13 June at 7pm meeting outside Conran's on the corner of Wellington Gardens. Other dates are: Tuesday, 17 July 10-11 am; Thursday, 15 August 7-8 pm; and Tuesday, 10 September 11-12 am as well as some work on the morning of Community Day. Just turn up on the day or contact Jodie at chair@charltonresidents.net . And if the kids want to come, bring them along.



#### RECIPE

# Matrimonial cake

#### **INGREDIENTS FOR FILLING**

2 cups of chopped dates;

1 cup of boiling water;

1 tablespoon of brown sugar;

juice of a lemon

Cook together until thickened. Leave to cool.

#### **INGREDIENTS FOR OAT MIXTURE**

One and a quarter cups of rolled oats; one and a quarter cups plain flour; half cup of brown sugar; 1 teaspoon of bicarbonate of soda; three quarters of a cup of butter.

- Mix the dry ingredients and rub in the butter.
- Press half the mixture into a lined tin about 9x9 inches square.
- Cover with the date filling mixture and then top with remaining oat mixture.
- Bake until crisp in a moderate oven (approx. gas mark 4, 350F, or 177C).

#### NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

# Burglaries increase

Some of you may be aware that there has been a worrying upward trend in burglaries over the last month. These have had a similar pattern with burglars 'garden hopping' late at night or in the early hours (1am to 5am). They often use tools taken from unsecured sheds.

The police are undertaking additional patrols in our area. Recently they have deployed helicopters and police dogs in pursuit of suspects. They ask for your help. If you hear a helicopter hovering overhead please DO NOT go out into your garden or the street to see what is going on. This is seriously hampering operations that rely on a helicopter tracking someone at a time when normally there are very few residents outside. And please do not interfere or approach a working police dog. This again is seriously hampering the police at work.

Can you please spread the word on this to all your friends, neighbours or through your networks so we can really support the police in protecting us?

■ Stop press: on 22 May police reported that a man had been arrested in connection with burglaries in the Charlton area and elsewhere.



Your home may be repossessed if you do not keep up repayments on a mortgage or any debt secured on it.

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## Join in with CCRA's Community **Day - Clean Up Revolution!**

CCRA's Community Day makes such a big difference to our area. This year our annual day of cleaning and greening is on Saturday 6 July. This is our chance to show that we have pride in our area - something that is often said to be missing in cities! The day begins at 10am with small teams going out litter-picking around our streets, weeding one or two of our greened plots, and giving some special attention to some of the trees!

All volunteers are warmly invited to join us for a delicious free lunch, served at St Richard's Hall

During the afternoon, there will be a session from CAFC's Community Involvement Team who have been doing a great deal of work within the Charlton community and beyond, on healthy living initiatives There will also be taster sessions introducing aspects of RBG's Active for Health programme (see page 1).

#### Programme for the day

10.00am - 12.30pm Clean Up!

Volunteers meet at St Richard's Hall for litter-picking, weeding and general duties to make our area look loved! Jackets, gloves, litter-picking tools and bags provided.



Wendy Barrington preparing scrumptious lunch for helpers at last year's Community Day clean up

12.30 - 1.30pm - Lunch

1.30 - 2.30pm - Charlton Athletic FC Community Involvement Team - Healthy Living Interactive Session 2.30 - 3.30pm - Active for Health taster sessions

Later this month CCRA members only will be sent details of a special free offer from the council associated with Community Day. Don't miss out - join or renew membership today!



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**Important dates:** 

1919 Alcock and Brown flew the first transatlantic flight

1969 First moon landing

1989 Fall of the Berlin Wall

And now in 2019......

CHARLTON CENTRAL RESIDENTS'
ASSOCIATION
are holding their

# 8th ANNUAL FLOWER, PRODUCE AND CRAFT SHOW

St Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road, SE7

Saturday 14 September 2019

All information and entry forms can also be downloaded from the CCRA website: www.charltonresidents.net

In partnership with the Blackheath and Greenwich branch of the Women's Institute

#### Schedule of classes

#### I can grow ..... then enter:

#### **Cut Flowers**

- 1) Single rose
- 2) Dahlia single bloom
- 3) Sweet peas (x3)

- 4) Vase of autumn flowers
- 5) Any garden flower

#### Pot Plants

- 6) Non-flowering pot plant (grown for foliage) max pot size 10"/25cm internal diameter
- 7) Flowering pot plant max pot size 10"/25cm internal diameter
- 8) Any succulent
- 9) Chilli plant in a container
- 10) Fuchsia in a pot
- 11) Orchid in a pot

#### Flower arranging

- 12) An arrangement in a cup and saucer
- 13) Arrangement with 3 different coloured flowers
- 14) An exhibit of garden foliage Max 18  $\times$  9"/46 $\times$ 23cm
- 15) An arrangement of dried flowers/foliage

#### Vegetables/Fruit

- 16) Tomatoes (3)
- 17) Longest runner bean
- 18) Herbs (any)
- 19) Courgettes (3)
- 20) Smallest ripe tomato

- 21) Strangest-looking vegetable
- 22) Pears (3)
- 23) Any stoned fruits (3)
- 24) Apples (3)
- 25) Any soft fruits (3 of each single type)

#### I can bake ..... then enter:

#### Baking

- 26) White loaf
- 27) Brown loaf
- 28) Speciality bread (any type)
- 29) 4 cheese scones
- 30) 4 jam tarts
- 31) 4 sausage rolls

#### CAKES

- 32) Lemon Drizzle cake
- 33) Victoria sponge sandwich filled
- 34) Chocolate cake decorated & filled
- 35) Any veg cake e.g. carrot, beetroot
- 36) 6 pieces from a tray bake

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#### I can bottle... then enter:

#### Preserves

37) Jar of chutney or relish

38) Jar of pickled vegetables (any type)

39) Jar of marmalade (any type)

40) Jar of jam (any type)

41) Jar of curd (any type - lemon, orange

etc)

#### I can make.... then enter:

42) Original painting or drawing (max A3)

43) Small hand-knitted item

44) Small patchwork/appliqué item

45) Cross-stitch (framed/unframed) item

46) Wall hanging (any medium)

47) Handmade jewellery (no kits)

48) Handcrafted item in metal or wood

All photos max 7x5"/18x13cm

Themed as follows:

49) Bugs or beasts

50) Black and white

51) My street

#### I am under 8 years old...then enter:

52) Drawing or painting (max A4) of a bug/beast

53) Edible necklace

54) Flower made from a construction toy e.g. lego, stickle bricks etc.

55) Flower in a pot (grown by you)

56) Decorated biscuit (2)

#### I am aged between 8 - 12 years old....then enter:

57) Drawing or painting (max A4) of my best friend

58) Face collage of material of your choice (max 30 cms/12")

59) Alien made from a construction toy e.g. lego, stickle bricks etc.

60) Any photograph

61) Baked and decorated cake

#### This event is organised by CCRA to encourage:

community involvement in fun activities for all the family;

• everyone to grow more produce, in line with our green agenda;

• the sharing of craft and cooking skills between neighbours; and

to make Charlton a more sociable and friendly place to live.

So how does this show work and how do I enter?



#### Come along to St Richard's Hall on Saturday 16 September

#### Times

Deliver entries between 8.00 a.m. and 10.45 a.m. and a steward will register your entry. After 10.45 am the Hall will be closed to the public for judging.

The hall will reopen at 2.15 pm for entries to be viewed and prize giving will be at 2.30 pm. All exhibits must be left in the Hall until 3.00 pm for display and then removed.

#### Cost

Each entry costs £1 for adults with free entry for children

#### Prizes

 $1^{st}$  Prize,  $2^{nd}$  Prize and Highly Commended certificates may be awarded along with a small monetary prize for first (£1) and second (50p) class winners only.

#### Conditions

- Only residents in the CCRA area, or associate members of CCRA (+ Fossdene pupils) may enter the competition.
- No one can have more than two entries in a single class.
- All exhibits must be bona-fide productions of the entrants, or personally grown in their homes/gardens/allotments. The exceptions are the Flower Arranging classes which are judged solely as decorative exhibits.
- Judges may withhold prizes if they consider the quality insufficient and entries may be
  disqualified if they contravene the rules/conditions of entry. You are STRONGLY
  ADVISED to read the separate "Hints and Tips" on each class see the website for details.
- The Judges' decisions are final and appeals must be made to the Chair of the Show Committee before 2:25 p.m. on the day of the Show.
- The organisers cannot accept responsibility for any loss or damage to entries.
- <u>Please note</u> in the case of edible goods, a proportion of the exhibit will be made available for tasting purposes on the day.

Entries will be accepted on the day. You can complete an entry form on the day when you submit your entry. Alternatively, you can download entry forms in advance from the CCRA website, email <a href="mailto:charltonresidents.net">chair@charltonresidents.net</a> or get them from:

Brenda Taggart, 49 Delafield Road (8853 3354) Jill Austen, 26 Delafield Road (8853 4366)

Join in and Good Luck

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# Greenwich Blues Band to record first album

On the first Sunday evening of the month, what could be better than to go to the Blues Night at the Earl of Chatham pub in Woolwich, where you can enjoy great music from a range of fine musicians, headed up by the amazing Greenwich Blues Band?

The band is led by Louisa Le Marchand on vocals and blues harmonica, backed by a truly international line-up, comprising Andre Maturin from St Lucia on bass, legendary South African Trumpeter (now living in Charlton) Claude Deppa, Nigerian Drummer Timothy Amatah, Chris Harrison (CCRA member, originally from Tyneside) on piano, Ebenezer Oke, 'the BB King of Lagos', on guitar, and Seth and Jermaine Danzie from the Caribbean on saxophones.

The band was formed two years ago and, as well as hosting the Blues Nights, have performed at many festivals. Their music ranges from Chicago Blues to Mississippi Delta, with some cover songs by Big Mama Thornton and originals written by Louisa and arranged by the band.

The band's theme song 'It All Comes Back', sung originally by Paul Butterfield, always gets the audience singing and joining in.

Greenwich Blues Band are scheduled to begin recording their first album next month at the Ad-Royce Studios in Woolwich Arsenal, and plan to release it early next year on the GFMA Record Label.

■ At the Blues Nights, which are organised by award-winning local charity Global Fusion Music and Arts (GFMA), you will also be able to hear some great supporting acts. Come along to the Earl of Chatham, 15 Thomas Street, Woolwich, SE18 6HU, from 7.30-10.00. Dates for the rest of this year are: 7 Jul, 8 Sep, 6 Oct, 3 Nov, 1 Dec. For more information please call Hazel Brown at GFMA on 0208 858 9497 or email info@globalfusionarts.co.uk.

# Ferret around the park ...

Rae Banel likes to take a ferret around the park. His name is Charles and he is her favourite pet. "People are always staring at us," said 18-year-old Rae who lives on the Cherry Orchard Estate.

"But ferrets like to be outdoors and love to snuffle around the bushes, so I take him out whenever I can. He's adorable and a great character."

Charles has a pal back home called Prince, but like all unneutered males they don't get along too well and have to be kept apart.

Charles lives in a cage in Rae's bedroom, but is usually out in the room clambering over the furniture exploring. "When he gets tired he curls up with me and snoozes. He's just so cute."





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## Planning the future of Charlton

By Clare Loops

Since it started, CCRA has been actively engaged in commenting on local planning applications to make sure they are a right fit for our area.

Recently, many of Charlton's residential groups, including CCRA, came together to form an umbrella group called Charlton Together, which successfully fought the proposed Rockwell development of 771 flats off Anchor and Hope Lane, which was not in keeping with the adopted Masterplan for the area.

Now, Charlton Together would like to take a more proactive approach to planning by becoming a designated Forum for all Charlton, from the River Thames, through the Village and up to the Lido and Hornfair Park and including

all Charlton's residential areas. And we would like as many people who live and work in the area to join in.

Once we are formally designated by Royal Greenwich and have an agreed boundary for the Neighbourhood Area, we can create a Neighbourhood Plan for Charlton.

Do you want to have a say in how the area changes in the future? Then please join us! Signing up to become a Forum member is free, and you can give as little or as much time as you have.

You don't need any planning skills – whatever your skills they will be welcome and put to use. It will take time to create a Neighbourhood Plan, but we think that it will be worth all the effort

#### What is a neighbourhood plan?

A neighbourhood plan is a document that sets out planning policies for a local area. It's used to decide whether to approve planning applications, including new buildings (e.g. community facilities) or changes to existing buildings (e.g. giving permission to change the upper floors of shops to flats). It's written by the local community, the people who know and love the area, to ensure the community gets the right types of development, in the right place. Neighbourhood planning is supported by central government through the Localism Act 2011.

#### **Next steps**

If you want to become a Forum member, please contact us at info@charltonneighbourhoodforum.com and we will be in touch. We will also have leaflets and sign-up sheets at community events in Charlton throughout June and early July. During this time we will also be at Charlton Station and the Charlton Lido handing out leaflets. So if you see us, please say hello and ask us anything about the proposed Neighbourhood Forum, Area and Plan.

Most importantly, if you are available please come along to our first Annual General Meeting, at the Assembly Rooms in Charlton Village, at 3:30pm on Saturday 13 July. At this meeting we will form a committee and elect officers, agree a constitution, and finalise the boundaries of the area that we think represents all the communities of Charlton. Following this meeting, we will be applying to the Council for formal designation.

The Friends of Charlton Park invite you to



#### The Great Get Together

at Charlton Park, 22 June, 1-5pm

Free live music from great local bands & DJs; arts & crafts workshops; the Great Charlton Cake off (entry forms at www.friendsofcharltonpark.org)

#### GIVE SOMEONE A HAND UP - NOT A HAND OUT

Following an increase of incidents of begging in the environs of Charlton Station, the CCNWatch would like to remind everyone not to give to beggars on the street. Giving to beggars, despite hard luck stories, can do three things:

- it can perpetuate begging which can become aggressive
- it can deter beggars from seeking long term solutions to their problems and
- it can result in money being used immediately to support drug habits.

We all want to help those who are down on their luck and need assistance but this is best done through donations to charities that work long term with the homeless and those less fortunate.



# I heard it on the Grapevine

#### **COMMUNITY GROUPS**

#### **Walking Group**

The group likes to vary the types and areas of walk it covers, hoping to enable walkers of all abilities and interests to join in. So after our exposed, but delightful, walk in March at Walthamstow Wetlands we chose a City based walk in April, visiting the areas around St. Paul's, including the magnificent view of it from Number One New Change. Then on to the Guildhall with a brief look around the gallery and on to the Barbican. Our aim here was to visit the Conservatory, open to the public every Sunday afternoon, and view the range of plants and pond life on the 4th floor. In May our walk, whilst still in a busy part of North London, was one that you could imagine as being in the countryside. Parkland Walk starts at Finsbury Park and follows a disused railway line with well established trees and bushes, birds singing but also remnants of station platforms, tunnels and bridges along the way. There are bat caves to peer into and Green Man sculptures to find above you. After refreshments at a welcoming delicatessen we made our way through Highgate Woods before continuing the track high above local houses with the most amazing views over London and on to Alexandra Palace, which was a discovery on its own for many of us. This was a rather longer walk than usual but splendid weather and good company made it a great day out! If you'd like to join the next walk be at Charlton Station at 10am on Sunday 14 July or contact Jill at jillmo@btinternet.com.

#### **Book Group**

Our Book Group had lots of discussion on its recent read – Washington Black by Esi Edugayan. This book sparked a lot of debate on the key themes we identified – slavery vs enslavement, travel and the widening world, and family relationships – especially those of father/son. We liked the vivid writing that employed all the senses, especially smell! But we felt some of the scenes and characters lacked credibility. Our next read on Tuesday 4th June is for one of our favourite authors, Barbara Kingsolver. Her latest novel, Unsheltered, is about writers and academics, past and present, who can't hammer a nail. They live in old New Jersey houses that are crumbling. Life pinches them in other ways. This book's central character, a laid-off

journalist named Willa Knox, asks this question: "How could two hardworking people do everything right in life and arrive in their 50s essentially destitute?" We meet Willa's family, four generations living under one sagging roof. Their story is threaded with that of an intellectually daring science teacher who lived on the same property with his extended family, in a different collapsing house, a century earlier. We're also planning to discuss Warlight, by the acclaimed Michael Ondatje on Wednesday 17th July. Do contact Zoe on zoe31well@hotmail.com if you'd like to join us.

#### **Knit and Knatter**

Come along to St Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road, 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm on the following dates for a crafty afternoon: 25 June, 30 July. We specialise in charity knits but everyone is welcome. You can even come along just for the natter. Come and share your skills and learn some new ones.

#### Singing group

We continue to meet fortnightly on Mondays, and to sing a varied selection of songs, both in unison and with harmonies. We are always happy to welcome new members, whatever your level of experience. Although we do give occasional performances, the group is really about singing for our own pleasure, and there's no pressure to attend every session. Remaining sessions until the summer are: 17 June; 1, 15, 29 July. If you are interested in joining, please contact Chris on 020 8858 7377.

#### **Instrumental music group (SE7)**

Our Monday sessions have been a bit less regular recently, but members of the group continue to be active, performing at different local events. We will be playing music for the CCRA Big Lunch on 2 June, and hope to arrange another evening at Cattleya before the summer. We are always interested in gaining new members, whatever your instrument or level of experience, and reading music is not essential. If you are interested in joining the group, please contact Chris on 020 8858 7377.

# SATURDAY 15 JUNE - A BUSY DAY IN CHARLTON

St. Richard's Day 1-4pm (see page 11)

Charlton Society's 50th jubilee / garden party at the Garrison Church in Woolwich 2.30-4pm

Charity Fun Day/ fundraiser in aid of Cancer Research UK at The Rose of Denmark 3pm until late, including BBQ, Karaoke, Cakes, Raffle and Sponsored Shave Off (heads and beards)! CCRA chair Jodie is participating and hoping to raise £500.

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# How happy is my valley?

## ... A view from the terraces

Charlton are back in the Championship! We did it at the last gasp in a thrilling, event-filled Wembley play-offs final that will be remembered for years to come. Many have rated Charlton's last appearance in a play-offs final 21 years ago – also against Sunderland – as the best game to be played at the stadium.

This one was right up there with it for incident and drama. At least we were spared the agony of extra-time and penalties. We did all that against Doncaster at the Valley last month in the play-offs decider. That one went to the last penalty – put wide by Doncaster.

But at Wembley, just when we all thought extra time was inevitable captain Patrick Bauer shot home from close range to make it 2 – 1 with exactly six seconds left of normal time! The relief and delight from

both players and 38,000 Charlton fans was palpable.

But it might have all gone so wrong. With only four minutes on the clock Naby Sarr sent a hard pass back to keeper Dillon Phillips. The keeper misjudged the ball and it bobbled over his boot and into the back of the net. Disaster! Charlton proved resilient, however and fought back to 1-1 with a well-executed move, one deft touch from Joe Aribo, a precision cross from Lyle Taylor and full back Ben Purrington got on the end of it for his first and Charlton's equaliser.

We stayed dominant for most of the game but no further goals came until that thrilling, nail-biting finish. It was a special moment for Bauer who has had a magnificent season as the central rock around which the defence pivoted. It was his first goal in 39 appearances – not a bad way to break such a long goal scoring absence. Still buzzing from the adrenaline of the game, he said: "Footballers dream of moments like this. It's the highlight of my career so far."

And a delighted Lee Bowyer said: "It was a crazy game. I knew there would be things happening that I couldn't control but I backed my players to come through. We controlled large parts of the match and I felt that we could do it."

In this his first season as a manager, Bowyer has earned the respect and admiration of the footballing community for the way he has crafted a winning team from a handful of professionals and a rich vein of talent tapped from the renowned Charlton Academy. The club's skill in recruiting the right players on the miserly budget dispensed by owner Roland Duchatelet, has become a watchword in the league. Lyle Taylor came to Charlton on a free transfer and has rightly earned a reputation as one of the top strikers in the division, racking up a tally of 22 goals. His impact on the team is hard to overestimate.

Add in the maturing presence of Joe Aribo, the ball skills and speed of Jonny Williams and the midfield mastery of Josh Cullen (on loan from West Ham) and you have the makings of a well-balanced and dangerous side. Arsenal loanee Krystian Bielik – Man of the Match at

side and John Parker, who has taken over duties from the injured Igor Vetokele, has proved a thorn in the side of

Wembley - has been an important addition to the

many teams this season.

Dillon Phillips - one terrible mistake at Wembley aside - has been brilliant in goal, producing a string of top class saves that have kept us in games that looked over. Other names that must get a mention for their outstanding performances are the much improved Naby Sarr, Jason Pearce, Chris Solly, Anfernee Dijksteel, Darren Pratley Ben Reeves and youngsters George Lapslie and Albie Morgan.

Hopefully we can retain many of

these players on our ultimate quest for a return to the premiership. Bauer had said he would go if we did not gain promotion and there were several others who we could not have expected to stay at the club. Now with our status secure we have a strong chance of offering them better contracts.

Bowyer will need to beef up the side in some areas; we still need a back up striker for instance and where loan players are recalled gaps will need to be filled.

Bowyer repeatedly stated that he believed in the squad and believed we would get promotion. In this column I have frequently said I believe what he says. I always thought we were capable of reaching the championship, though our last two play-off games left me a nervous wreck. Well, we never make things easy here at Charlton do we? COYR's.

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#### PLAYING OUT

## Volunteers always welcome

Sundorne Road's Playing Out scheme has enjoyed some wonderful afternoons this term, with children enjoying lengthening evenings, playing under the cherry blossoms. We've had skateboards, epic chalk drawings, bubbles, scooters and more. Children and parents also took part in CCRA's Great British Spring Clean on 27 March, and helped tidy some of the areas around St Richard's Hall.

On 24 April we were visited by representatives from the Borough's Live Well scheme. They enjoyed watching the children and were keen to hear from volunteers about what we got up to and how much benefit the children get from the scheme. We were also visited by residents from Thamesmead who are hoping to set up a Playing Out scheme in their own area, and were looking for hints and tips.

This summer we are hoping to reach even more parents and children – we would love to see you there. Pop by and share a cup of tea while your children enjoy some play in the street.

Playing Out depends on our stewards, and new volunteers are always welcome! It's not hard work, and you can do it while keeping an eye on your children. Every sessions needs two stewards at either end of the road to let cars in and out of the road, and to tell children when they must move onto the pavement, and when it is safe to play again. There are always at least two experienced stewards on hand who can help with any questions. If you are interested please let Tim know at playingoutse?@gmail.com, or speak to a steward on the day.

■ Playing Out takes place on Sundorne Road every other



Wednesday, between 3.45 and 5.30pm. The next dates are: 19 June, 3 July, 17 July, 31 July. For more details or to stay updated, please email playingoutse7@gmail.com. For details about the nationwide Playing Out scheme, please visit http://playingout.net

#### ST RICHARD'S DAY

**WHERE?** – St Richard's Church Centre, (corner of Swallowfield Road and Sundorne Road)

**WHEN?** Saturday 15 June 1 – 4.30pm and 4.30 – 5pm St Richard's Day service

#### COME AND DISCOVER THE MEETING PLACE FOR YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

GRAFFITI WALL: have your say about the needs of the area and how St. Richard's could help

VEGGIE SAINT CAFÉ

INTERACTIVE SESSIONS

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOUR

STALLS

**ENTERTAINMENTS** 

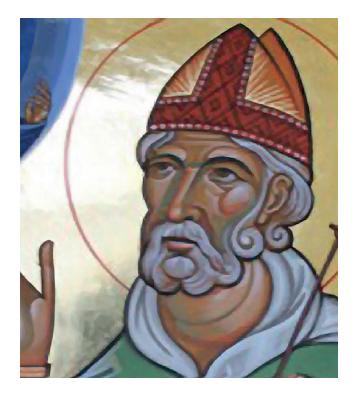
CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

LIVE MUSIC

'FAMOUS RICHARDS' QUIZ - with prizes

CHAPEL: open for reflection/ quiet time/ prayer

**HEAR OUR VISION for St. Richard's Church Centre** 



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## Dates for your diary

#### **Saturday 6 July**

Community Day Meet at St Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road 10-4pm Full details on page 6

#### **Saturday 14 September**

Flower and Produce Show St Richard's Hall Entry drop off from 8-10.45am Prize-giving 2.15 –3pm Full details on the yellow insert



#### **Thursday 3 October**

CCRA AGM

7.30 at St. Richard's Hall Further details to come

#### **Saturday 16 November**

**Quiz NIght** 

7.30 at St. Richard's Hall Further details to come



'Would fans please note – it is an offence to invade the pitch at any time.' Seconds after that emphatic message was flashed up on the big screen, the match ended and thousands of ecstatic home supporters flooded onto the ground as Charlton squeezed past Doncaster into the play-offs final. It was the finest of margins and went down to the last penalty kick of the evening. Then it was on to Wembley.





**Charlton Central Residents Association**