

A CLEAN SWEEP!

CCRA sets out its stall for a special events day

After months of lockdown it's time to throw off the mantle of gloom and get back on the streets of central Charlton. They are looking shabby at the moment but CCRA is asking all local residents to turn out on 3 July, help spruce up the area and restore pride to our neighbourhood.

And when the cleaning is done there will be the first of many CCRA events to follow – an Arts, Crafts and Jumble Trail.

Yes, it's the annual Community Day when we get together to give a facelift to our public places. Litter and dumped rubbish that has accumulated over the months will be picked up by an army of enthusiastic volunteers.

A free lunch will be provided to all CCRA volunteers and then the Arts, Crafts and Jumble Trail will kick-off in the afternoon from 2–5pm. We had to cancel the Community Day last year so this is our first opportunity to bring everyone in the area together. Helpers meet at 10.30am at St Richard's Hall in Swallowfield Road. In small teams they will tidy up hot litter spots.

Other groups will tend, weed and refresh sites greened by CCRA in the past, like the little gardens in Nadine Street and Inverine Road. You will be able to use bags, gloves, pickers and other protective equipment, including hi-viz tops, provided by the Greenwich Council for the day or bring your own trowels and secateurs.

If you want to clean up your immediate neighbourhood with friends, that's fine. Just turn up at St Richard's on the day at 10.30am. Covid permitting, all volunteers can join in a simple community lunch at St Richard's Hall from 12.30pm. Before the event begins the council will clean the drains in our roads. You may see the 'gulley sucker' lorry hoovering out silt and dead leaves while making a squelchy noise kids love.

After Community Day the council has agreed to take away bigger rubbish items from the homes of CCRA members on a date to be agreed. Full details of how to apply for this free service will be sent to all CCRA members paid up by 3 July.

After lunch, from 2–5pm it's our first ever Arts, Craft and Jumble Trail. The idea is simple. Local residents, who have registered with CCRA, set up stalls in their front gardens. You sell whatever you like from your stall: children's clothes,



homemade cards, plant or puzzles, bikes or books or bric-a-brac. Or maybe you have plants to sell or homemade cakes. We charge stallholders a small fee to publicise the event. More than two dozen people have already signed up but there's room for more. On the day, a map showing all the properties taking part will be available outside St Richard's from 1.30 onwards.

To get on the map, contact Jacqui on 07717742886 or email her on jumbletrail@charltonresidents.net by 18 June to register your stall. We hope this will be a great Community Day. Just pick up a map, go round the newly cleaned area with family and friends and pick up some bargains or treasures. Fingers crossed for a sunny day.

STOP PRESS CCRA's 2021 Flower and Produce and Craft Show is back on 11 September. See the yellow insert in this edition of Grapevine for more detail of what you might enter – bread, knitting, lemon curd. Updates on times, as well as hints and tips for producing the prize-winning entries can be found on the website at www.charltonresidents.net.

CHARLTON CHURCH LANE

YOU COULDN'T MAKE IT UP ...

After years of complaints about the traffic situation opposite Sainsbury's in Charlton Church Lane, CCRA was keen to collaborate with the Council to improve the area.

For years parking on double yellow lines has delayed the 486 bus service and led to traffic jams along the road in both directions, especially during rush hours, plus concerns about increased air pollution with cars idling for extended periods.

CCRA has worked tirelessly to re-phase the traffic lights controlling the transport interchange and to implement improvement to the crossing by the north bound bus stop.

After many discussions, we were delighted when the Council's Highways Department agreed to narrow the road to deter unlawful parking.

Having done that, however, the Council, without consultation, introduced a planting scheme. Sadly, instead of greening the area, the new planting strip significantly decreased the pavement, leading to pedestrian congestion and queues outside the Post Office.

When this became unacceptable for social distancing, we met the Council to re-site the bicycle racks behind the north-bound bus stop to give buggies, wheelchairs and mobility scooters better access along the pavement.

During the long delay to completing the scheme, the planting area was driven and walked over, creating a trip hazard. We again liaised with the Council, requesting raised beds to avoid this. They remained convinced the flat bed was the best solution.

When planting was eventually completed, however, the cotoneasters were so small, unprotected by fencing, within a week they were driven over and trampled by pedestrians who genuinely didn't see them.

So what next? The area is to be repaved and bollards added. Our idea for raised beds was dismissed as these were deemed a potential security hazard on football days. What's gone down the drain? – not just a great idea which, if properly implemented, would have greatly improved the area, but a whopping £1,225.90p in planting costs alone (100 cotoneaster @£7 per plant, mulch/prep @£366, £159.90 contractor fees).

STOP PRESS After an 11th hour meeting with RBG it has been agreed that the planting strip will not be paved over entirely. The council will plant eight trees from the corner of Delafield Road to the station (five in the planting strip)... Watch this space ...

Charlton Toy Library seeks Chair

Charlton Toy Library is a local charity established in 1982 and based in Charlton House, which supports the wellbeing, safety and development of children living in Greenwich.

It provides families with a place to meet up, play with their children or get advice from our very experienced members of staff. We run an outreach service providing vulnerable families with tailored support and advice, along with free access to toys, books and safety equipment to support their children's needs.

Many of the families we support through our outreach service are isolated. They may experience poverty and disadvantage, and some have suffered domestic violence.

After the lockdowns, we opened our doors again on 23 April and are currently offering free memberships until the end of August 2021 (for more information please email us at info@charltontoylibrary.org.uk).

We're open during term-time on Fridays and Saturdays (10 am – 12 noon) and our members can come in, browse and borrow up to five items at any one time for free from a wide selection of toys. This service enables children

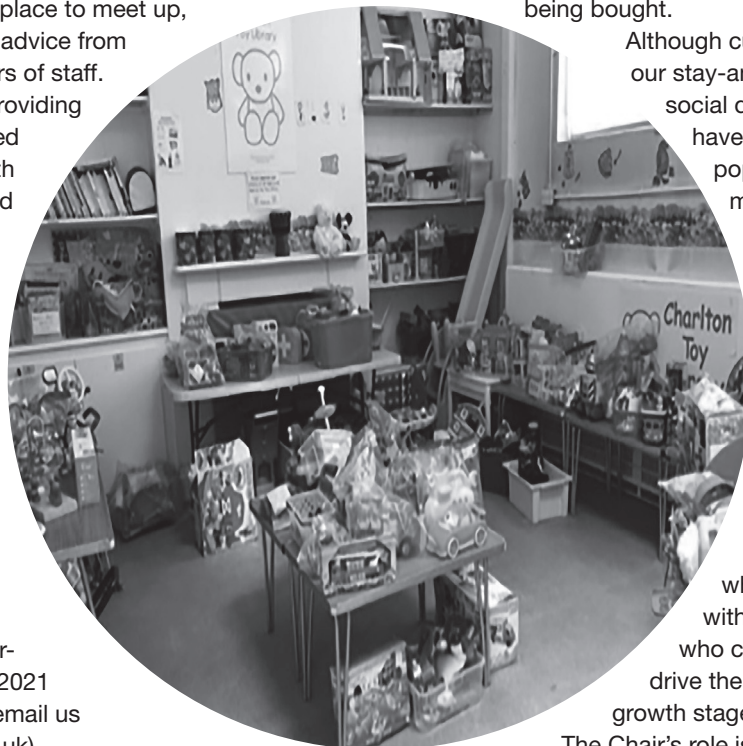
to benefit from play with a varied range of toys and develop diverse skills through play – and is environmentally friendly. Sharing in this way reduces the amount of plastic toys being bought.

Although currently we cannot open our stay-and-play sessions due to social distancing restrictions, we have started running our very popular music session on Friday mornings at 10:30 am on the lawn in front of Charlton House (weather permitting).

It has been a true joy to see so many happy faces again, giving parents who have been isolated for over a year an opportunity to socialise with others in a safe way and the children to sing and dance in the park.

We are now seeking a Chair who is passionate, motivated, with excellent leadership skills, who can commit the time to help drive the charity forward to its next growth stage and help increase its team.

The Chair's role is to be part of the Board of Trustees, ensuring that it fulfils its governance responsibilities and the achievement of agreed objectives as laid down in approved strategies and plans. For more information, please contact us at info@charltontoylibrary.org.uk.



A whale of a tale!

Our resident historian **Jill Austen** unfolds the fascinating story of a local seafaring dynasty

As the Thames Path winds its way to completion on the borders of Greenwich and Charlton it passes Enderby House, now a Young's pub and restaurant.

Few of those sipping ales on the terrace while gazing out at the river and its Docklands skyscraper landscape will know of the remarkable history of this building. Until recent riverside development, this impressive edifice, built in 1846, was tucked away, accessible only to a privileged few.

But once Enderby House was the centre of a business that stretched far beyond the shores of Britain. Samuel Enderby had come from a family of tanners in Bermondsey but became a cooper and, on completion of his seven-year apprenticeship, built his own business described as oil cooper and wood and furniture carriage. He married Elizabeth Buxton in 1752 after which he was brought into partnership with her father supplying barrels for his business in whale oil.

Buxton & Enderby had a highly lucrative business with the North American whaling fleets in Massachusetts and Nantucket with their ships carrying goods out and bringing back whale oil and spermaceti wax (for candles and soap).

But their wealth was jeopardised by the near extinction of the sperm whale and British Government embargoes on exports of whale oil after the Boston Tea Party. It was said that two Enderby ships had their cargo of tea dumped into Boston Harbour.

Once the Antarctic Circle had been crossed for the first time by Captain James Cook in 1773 new, rich whaling grounds were found and shortly afterwards Samuel Snr set up the company of Samuel Enderby & Sons. Business prospered and included, as outward delivery of 'goods', the transportation of convicts to Australia. In Herman Melville's book *Moby Dick* the whaling ship 'Pequod' meets the 'Samuel Enderby' and has Captain Ahab frantically demanding information of the White Whale from the captain of the 'Samuel Enderby'; he also states Enderby ships founded the whaling grounds off Japan.

The Company opened an office in Port Jackson, now Sydney Harbour, in 1791 to coordinate operations. Captain Bristow on one of the Company's ships, the 'Ocean', discovered a small group of islands south of New Zealand,



Fire at Enderby Wharf, 1845

one of which he named Enderby Island.

Samuel Snr. died a very wealthy man in 1779 and was buried in St Alfege Church, Greenwich. His sons continued the business, but commercial conditions for whaling were dwindling so the Company moved into rope and canvas making and purchased a riverside plot to accommodate the factory. It burnt down in 1845 in mysterious circumstances and was reported at the time as being 'well covered by insurances'.

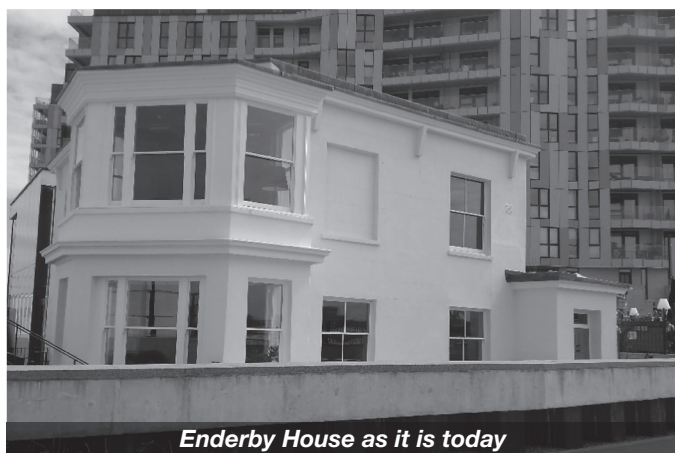
Charles Enderby built a house on the site incorporating an attractive octagonal room on the first floor, said to enable him to have a wide view of Enderby ships, albeit a very small fleet by this time. The Enderby Company finally folded in 1853 after Charles went bankrupt as a result of the establishment of the Enderby Settlement on Erebus Cove near Auckland Island.

The wharf and house were taken over by George Elliott, a mining engineer from Gateshead, who had been appointed agent to a local wire rope manufacturer and had provided him with colliery wiring. He saw the potential for the use of this rope in the protection of gutta-percha (a form of rubber) to cover submarine cables. Elliott's connection with accountant, Richard Glass led them to form Elliott, Glass & Co., that went on to make part of the first transatlantic submarine cable, that was lost soon after being laid, and a series of other transatlantic cables laid by the Great Eastern, under the name of the newly reconstituted company The Telegraph Construction and Maintenance Co.

The site continued to be used for cable making well into the 20th century – and is reflected in the modern art installation, *Lay Lines*, representing the three eras of the site's technology: Telegraph, Telephone, Optical Fibre.

The company amalgamated with Siemens Bros. to form Submarine Cables Ltd. as a result of the Great Depression limiting the amount of work available for both. A succession of owners then held the site including BICC, AEI, STC and Northern Telecom, until in the 21st century it was taken over by Nokia. In 2018 local residents and politicians united to prevent some of the site being developed into a cruise ship terminal.

■ A fuller version of this article will appear on the CCRA website.



Enderby House as it is today



Still campaigning for a real community on the riverside

Towers to the East of us; towers to the West of us. Four over 20-storey high blocks on the Waterfront car park in Woolwich and proposed 24, 25, 30 and 36 storeys high giants at Morden Wharf looming over the world heritage centre of Greenwich.

Year after year the 'housebuilders' want to go higher and higher, and, though their progress is occasionally slowed by a planning refusal, steadily their towers encroach onto the shores of the Thames.

So far, no new housing has been built on the Charlton Riverside. The Supplementary Planning Document's (SPD) revised Masterplan area from Horn Lane to Warspite Road envisages a few 10 storey buildings along the river edge and housing and commercial/industrial development from 3 to 6 storeys elsewhere. Look at the brochure produced in 2017 and you will see some 5/6 storey flats and various designs for 3 and 4 storey houses! Yes houses.

Charlton Together, which includes CCRA, has been campaigning in support of this human scale vision for about four years. We successfully opposed Rockwell's high-rise proposals and, in the inspector's final Inquiry report, we got backing for Charlton Riverside to be seen as quite different from Greenwich peninsula and the Woolwich riverside. We hoped house builders on the Charlton sites would see that judgement as a strong message to limit the height of their plans accordingly. Sadly, it has not made much difference and a whole series of planning applications will go before the

council's planning board this year which in terms of height and density pay scant attention to the guidelines.

Two parallel sites between Eastmoor Street and Westmoor Street, running down to the Thames Barrier, are likely to be the first up, possibly mid-June. In the Masterplan an indicative height of 3-4 storeys is suggested, an area envisaged as low rise next to the narrow park. One proposal from the Aitch Group is 9 storeys high, the other from Optivo housing association is 7 storeys high. There is a lot more than height and density to look at in considering planning applications but

if it is to be human scale and foster a thriving community, a 6 storey limit is widely accepted as about tops.

That is the sort of development we want to see on the riverside in what is likely to be part of the council ward in which we now live. We recognise the need for more housing and jobs

and want Charlton riverside to help meet that need. But we don't want just a slightly lower version of what is happening in Woolwich and on the Greenwich Peninsula.

For some, high-rise living is a good thing at some point in their lives. But for many it is not good news: it's not a good place to raise children, for many elderly people or for those with a disability. However, for many, a new, well equipped flat is acceptable if no other choice is available. The way things are going, tens of thousands of people in the borough, possibly more than half, will be in high-rise or, on the riverside, very high-rise housing, not from popular choice but because house builders are keen on large profits.



Four 20-storey-plus blocks for the Waterfront car park in Woolwich

Pop in to the pop-up pub!

Brewer Stephen sets the bar high in Charlton

Discerning drinkers have been treated to a new venture recently with the advent of the Green Goddess pop-up pub at Charlton House.

The brainchild of beer enthusiast Stephen O'Connor, it's inspired by Ninkasi, the Sumerian goddess of beer who was brewing for her fellow deities as far back as 4,000 years ago. And what's good for the gods is excellent for Charlton's thirsty tipplers who have been flocking to the venture since it began on 12 April.

COVID restrictions are strictly applied and all ordering is done by mobile phone, but that doesn't interfere with the pure enjoyment of getting out and enjoying a fine pint of real ale. The pub is essentially tables and chairs on the terrace at the rear of Charlton House with fine views across the park.

Stephen and his wife Maryann, both 41, keep drinkers supplied from inside the building from mid-afternoon to mid-evening. And while it has been one of the soggiest Mays on record it has not dampened the enthusiasm of Stephen or his customers. They shelter under gazebos and sip ale while the rain comes down.

Stephen is a born and bred Charlton man, starting life at the mothers' and babies' hospital in Woolwich. After a career at Transport for London, he trained as a brewer in 2018. Maryann is a beer sommelier. Together they formed



Toast of the town: Stephen and Maryann enjoy a drink at the Green Goddess

the Common Rioters brewery, named in tribute to the 10,000 people of Plumstead who, in 1876, tore down fences and enclosures erected on the common to exclude the public.

The brewery's next venture is to turn the old Barclays Bank at the Standard into a beer café. They have the lease and are currently negotiating planning issues but hope to open by late summer.

Stephen describes his operation as 'cuckoo brewing' where they squat in someone else's premises to serve their ale. "It's really taken off," he said. "It's a good way to demonstrate we are responsible operators. We are open-ended at Charlton House and should continue for two months or so, but we will adapt to conditions."

Thames Barrier bridge

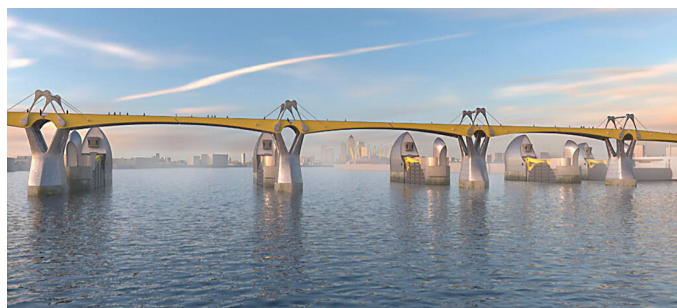
Taking a walk along the Thames Riverside Path and into Woolwich, you can cross the river by ferry and walk through Silvertown to the Thames Barrier Gardens – an enjoyable walk for an hour or so but you might consider how much easier it would be if the proposed Thames Barrier Bridge were to be built.

Our part of London needs better cross-river access without the need

for road transport and the existing infrastructure of the Thames Barrier makes this a possibility.

The Bridge would give easy access for walkers, cyclists and those using mobility aids via the ramps on either side.

The use of bascules, similar to those at Tower Bridge, to open the spans would be quick and efficient when allowing tall ships to pass through.



Whilst your hour's walk would take only about 15 minutes using the Bridge the opportunity for greater choices is very appealing as it would give access to the Lea Valley and Stratford in the north, and for those 'on the other side' easy links to the Green Chain Walks and places of interest in our area.

With rapid housing developments and job opportunities on both sides of the river as well as the relocation of the Greater London Authority, this Bridge would not be a vanity project, let's hope it becomes a reality.

■ More information is available here: thamesbarrierbridge.com and here: <https://youtu.be/1Ut1Dvespjs>

The Antigallican

After being closed for many years there is now a great deal of activity at the Antigallican.

Many of us have been distressed at the lengthy closure of our local and were very much in favour of seeing it brought back to life, providing developers respected the uniqueness of this locally listed building.

Having withdrawn an application to convert the Anti-G into a House in Multiple Occupation (HMO), the developers are reverting to a previous application for a 60 bed hotel.

There are plans to add an extension at the back and the end result will also include a bar on the front and a retail outlet. Watch this space for more news on the development.

Jams today. Jams tomorrow?

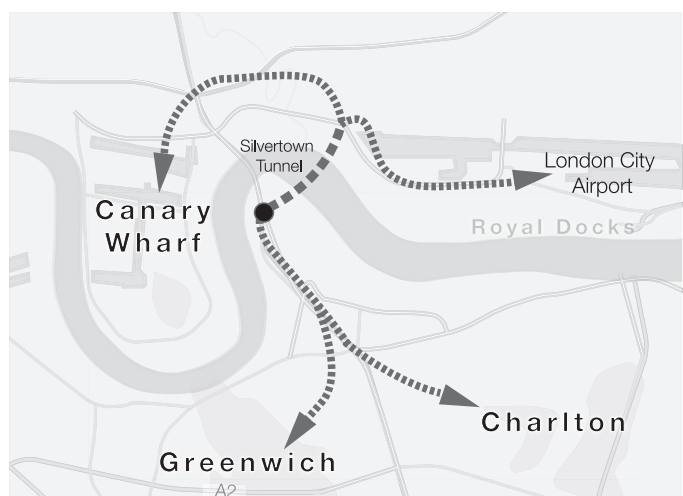
You can't please all of the people all of the time, but it seems relatively easy to displease everyone, particularly when it comes to traffic. The Silvertown Tunnel has long proved controversial. Though intended to relieve the congestion at the Blackwall Tunnel, both Newham and Greenwich councils and the MPs that represent those constituencies have expressed opposition to its construction.

Opponents believe that the increased traffic it will inevitably bring must lead to a worsening in environmental conditions and air quality. Others argue that it is the speed of the traffic rather than the volume that is the problem, that more cars moving quickly will produce less pollution than the current log jams drivers frequently experience.

Construction is already under way and it seems very unlikely that Mayor Sadiq Khan will halt it, despite local MP, Matthew Pennycook, calling on him to do so the day his re-election was announced. Events such as the recent car fire in the tunnel and subsequent resurfacing lead to significant local congestion. Even opponents of the scheme may be persuaded of the need for another tunnel.

Changes due to the borough's implementation of the TFL funded Streetspace programme is intended to improve conditions for pedestrians and cyclists and thus encourage more of us to get out of our cars. The Cycleway 4 along Woolwich Road has been extended and a two-way stretch of cycle lane set up in Trafalgar Road.

These developments coupled with the extension of a bus lane from Anchor and Hope Lane running along to Woolwich have squeezed the space available for other vehicles, bringing increased congestion in the area. Many drivers and even seasoned cyclists question these changes. Is a cycle lane that begins and ends so abruptly, that forces cyclists and bus passengers to dodge other road users, and requires cars to traverse it to join the carriageway, really safe?



Further challenges have come from the introduction of low traffic neighbourhoods. There are currently no proposals to introduce any measures into the CCRA area, but across the borough there has been a knock-on effect. Closing off roads in one area can mean increased traffic in others. Better off areas appear to benefit whilst council estates in places such as Blackheath Hill feel a negative impact.

Could these schemes have been done differently and achieved their aims more fairly and effectively? For instance, by using automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) to identify residents, or setting times for traffic reduction rather than blanket bans. And, as reported in the last *Grapevine*, don't forget the extension of the ultra-low emissions zone (ULEZ) as far as the South Circular Road later this year, which could cost people with even relatively modern cars at least £12.50 a day.

We must take action on air quality. But change is disruptive. How do we achieve the necessary change?

Talking rubbish

Greenwich council currently undertakes to empty all bins every week. There have been concerns that it intends to reduce the number of collections and, as many of us can attest, not all bins are emptied regularly now.

Greenwich says this is due to staff sickness and bank holidays and asks that we don't report when bins are not emptied, saying they will already know!

Greenwich residents are fortunate that green bins can include garden waste as many neighbouring boroughs

make annual charges for that service.

However, Greenwich has recently narrowed the range of recyclable things for inclusion in blue and green bins. We are now asked not to put packaging labelled compostable (such as magazine wraps, coffee cups and coffee pods) into green bins but the black bin.

Plastic bags, previously accepted in Greenwich's blue bin, must also now go in the black bin. Helpfully, many supermarkets do still recycle plastic shopping bags and Sainsbury's now offer to

accept other plastic bags such as bread and salad bags in their recycling bins.

Everything going into recycling must be clean – anything with food or other contamination must go in the black bin. Any contamination of recyclable materials may mean that large amounts go needlessly to landfill.

But it's not much effort to rinse out tins and bottles and pop them in the blue bin: remember, every small step contributes to the battle to protect our planet and our children's future.

Greening Charlton Riverside

When Greenwich Peninsula was developed, first on the agenda was the physical infrastructure: roads, essential services, riverside path and the broad swathe of green public space running through the peninsula's spine to the ecology centre. Most of the land was in single ownership and, once the Dome was confirmed, finance was no problem. Not so on Charlton riverside, with many small sites and as many owners with scant love from government. Draft plans show green corridors running through the riverside site, but making them happen will be much more difficult.

The only public space now is the green chain walk route, crossing Woolwich Road from Maryon Park and going through a narrow strip of land down to the Thames Barrier. West of that strip is Eastmoor Street and some of the planning board's first proposals would replace old dilapidated properties along there with new housing and commercial units.

The council's long-term objective is to restrict Eastmoor Street's use to pedestrians and cyclists, while widening the adjacent very narrow green space. Free of parked vehicles, Eastmoor Street is quite wide. The section nearest Woolwich Road, currently three roads wide, is nearly as wide as the park itself. Incorporating that space into the park area would much improve that end of the open space.

If, as development proceeds, Eastmoor Street's length were replaced by a broad path, just wide enough for emergency vehicles but otherwise motor vehicle free, it would require less than half the width of the existing road and pavement. The new path could use materials compatible with the open space and the remaining section of the road could be fully incorporated into the park, providing significant additional greening. Eastmoor Street is very straight, and an avenue of tall trees, close to the new path, could be planted right down to the Barrier as part of the whole riverside development.

The likely development of both the Aitch and Optivo sites on Eastmoor Street would provide the opportunity to kickstart this process. Failing to seize the chance to extend our parkland and reduce our carbon footprint would be a serious lost opportunity. If we don't act now, Eastmoor Street will continue to be used extensively for parking, another lost opportunity to establish low levels of car use throughout the riverside. But to make it happen will need public pressure and scrutiny. It's not high on housebuilders' agenda to extend parkland and council officers have many other immediate problems on the riverside. Let's keep our eyes on the goal for a green win.

Where do those mattresses come from?

Fly tipping remains a huge problem, but there is a quick way to get the Council to remove dumped items. Download the FIX MY STREET app on your mobile phone. Log on, take a picture and add details. The app records the location and alerts the Council. It also provides feedback after removal. You can also report items at fixmystreet.com. Reporting fly-tipping electronically rather than by phone results in quicker clean up rates.

MIKE PORTER – THE MYTH, THE MAN, THE LEGEND

An affectionate remembrance by **Maggie Carney** and **Ruth Brooks**

For many Charlton residents Mike Porter, who died on 24 May, was the big bearded man who owned the music shop 'Porter and Daughter', where they bought a child's first violin, clarinet or guitar, supplied their choir or band with sheet music, repaired instruments and made beautiful harps.

To those who knew him well, he was much more.

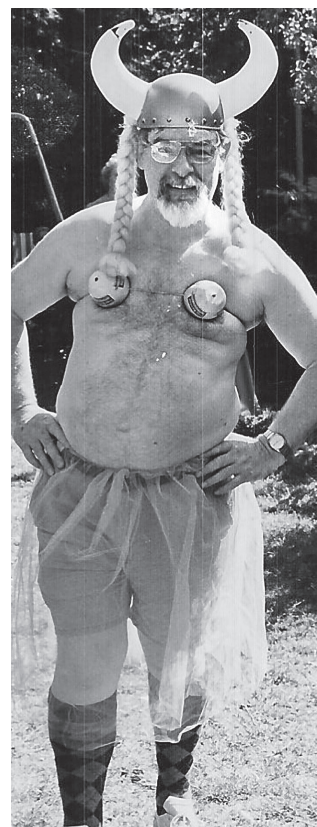
Everyone has their Mike Porter story; like the time he rode, standing up in an open top 2CV to his favourite drinking haunt The British Oak, dressed as the Pope in a white sheet and wearing a Weetabix box mitre waving to incredulous onlookers.

Dressing features in many of these memories; riding a full adult size tricycle dressed as Superman, representing the New Year wearing nothing but a nappy in the aforementioned Oak, along with various beard colourings and wonderful hats to reflect the changing seasons.

He loved a joke. 'I've got a silly story for you' was the prelude to one of his hilarious anecdotes. Those of us who spent Christmas with Mike will sorely miss his annual rendition of, *I'm the man who wrings the turkeys' necks at Christmas*. Mike was known for his love of music, especially folk and Irish songs of which he had an encyclopaedic knowledge and sang with his rich voice.

Many Charlton residents will have been lucky enough to hear him in venues around the borough such as part of Global Fusion events at Charlton House and regularly at Cattleya cafe, but he went all over the South East with folk singing friends and it was his passion.

We can't talk about Mike without mentioning 'Marge' or Chris, as we called her, his wife who died last year, for they were a couple in the true sense of the word. They were, 'MikeandChris' or 'ChrisandMike'. No one who knew them will forget Chris's eye roll and sigh as her crazy husband put on his Viking horns or started another story she'd heard 100 times. We'll also remember her encouragement for him to sing the songs she loved. She was part of that partnership which gave the best parties, who handed out the kazooes and carol sheets in the pub on Christmas Eve and who was always there with the gin or whisky when friends needed support. Mike Porter, we salute you as a valued member of the Charlton community. We truly will not see your like again and you are sorely missed.





Michael John

Branch Manager and Partner Conran Charlton

We have been honoured to be members of the CCRA and the wider Charlton community for many years. However, this is the first time that I have had the opportunity to write in The Grapevine myself!

The most asked question from when I meet a seller or landlord is: "With all the recent Covid-challenges, how has this affected the local property market?" A question I can confidently answer.

The truth is that it has been a roller-coaster, with our offices being initially closed, to now presently working in a covid-secure way- something I take very seriously. Originally, I was anxious that property values would fall if we hit a deep recession and that people would struggle to move home. I am delighted to say that this was far from the case! Covid became an opportunity to reassess how we live, how we work, where we want to be, and the kind of space that we need. Combined with the stamp duty holiday period, this created a fuel-injected market of motivated sellers and buyers, resulting in the many Conran boards in and around our streets.

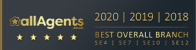
Many people have left London; others have sought out the desirable local roads, seeking more living and home-working room, and certainly more outside space. We have seen a significant increase in demand for houses at all levels of the property ladder, along with garden flats too. For most properties, we have witnessed a notable increase in value of several percent, and often a plethora of buyers: a world away from my initial concerns back in Spring 2020!

The Charlton office has been established for over twenty years - Yikes, I am old! I am happy to have met so many of you in my years at the helm. I would love to hear from you for a chat about any of your property-related needs, or even if you want advice on your extension proposals or anything else. Property is my passion, after all!

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CHARLTON | WESTCOMBE PARK
LEE | ELTHAM
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conran
a refreshing change



MASCALLS ROAD, CHARLTON

GUIDE PRICE £550,000

A knockout house: reimagined, remodelled, and refurbished, positioned in a quiet side road with an incredible open plan living space and quality kitchen. EPC: D



WELLINGTON GARDENS, CHARLTON

OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £320,000

Set in a grand period house, this special two bedroom first floor apartment would make an ideal first time purchase or investment. EPC: C



SAMUEL JOHNSON HOUSE, CHARLTON

ASKING PRICE £375,000

Full of natural light, spacious rooms, and a terrific balcony there is a lot to love about this apartment. EPC: B



DELAFIELD ROAD, CHARLTON

ASKING PRICE £700,000

This home ticks many boxes; period features, large rooms, a south facing garden and in an excellent location. EPC: E



SWALLOWFIELD ROAD, CHARLTON

GUIDE PRICE £460,000 - £475,000

A very rarely available garden flat in one of Charlton's loveliest tree-lined roads, very near to the station.

This property has a spacious living room with a bay window, high ceilings and a fireplace. It has a double bedroom with fitted wardrobes, single bedroom / guest room and a stunning refurbished shower room. To the rear is a beautiful kitchen-diner with appliances, and direct access to a sunny PRIVATE GARDEN of around 40ft with a patio, lawn and tree.

The flat has a very useful cellar (with concealed access) in the hallway cupboard and bespoke window shutters- homely and bursting with character.

Swallowfield Road is a peaceful spot just around the corner to the high frequency rail service at Charlton Station, direct bus services to North Greenwich Tube Station, all local parks and shops. With Blackheath and Greenwich also nearby, this flat is highly recommended. EPC: D



How happy is my valley?

... A view from the terraces

Is Adkins the man for all seasons?

It was the most extraordinary season in football history, but it had no fairy tale ending for Charlton; no play-offs and yet again a bare trophy cabinet. The final game was against League One champions Hull and our chances looked slim.

Yet we ran out 1-0 winners and still it wasn't enough. Other results needed to go our way, and didn't.

Analysis by ex-boss Alan Curbishley was succinct: We lost because of our home form. Fortress Valley became the stuff of nightmares for long periods when we haemorrhaged early goals and were left trying to claw back a draw or, more unlikely, a win. You can point to lockdown and the lack of fans but then every team had the same issue.

On the road we defied the odds and kept on winning, including a memorable 6-0 victory at Plymouth. But those home defeats dropped us too many points and on the final day we were tantalisingly close, pipped on goal difference.

While other clubs struggled with the pandemic, Charlton had started their horrendous season much earlier when ownership problems nearly brought about the club's demise. At one point receivership was only days away as cynical businessmen fought over who should get the spoils.

In the end a saviour came in and threw us a lifeline and we carried on. Thomas Sandgaard a US-based Dane bailed out the club and brought new hope. Manager Lee Bowyer was prevented from buying in new players because of an embargo on spending while due diligence went through. Loanees and one or two signings came in but by now Bowyer had shuffled his pack so many times players rarely knew their own team mates. The result was a lack of cohesion in play and results reflected that difficulty.

A six-win run mid season revived our hopes and we moved into the play-offs, leaving us faithful fans sensing a glimmer of promotion. And then came the slide. With a spate of injuries to key players form dropped and we moved back down the table. It seemed Bowyer had run out of ideas at Charlton. So it was no surprise when he quit the club and accepted the top job at Birmingham. There were no hard feelings and we all wished him well. Who took up the challenge?

Like the Spanish Inquisition, no one expected Nigel Adkins, but in he came, full of enthusiasm and with a reputation for restoring the fortunes of struggling clubs. Quick

wins and a run of good form pushed us back into contention and we even started to win at home again. But it wasn't quite enough.

What prospects for next season? There's only one word on Adkins' mind – promotion. As Hull celebrated their elevation to the championship at the Valley on 9 May, Adkins pointed to them and said: "That will be us next season." Those words must have resonated with fans because within two weeks 7,000 of them had bought season tickets.

The clear out has begun. Stalwart Darren Pratley, at 36, has not had his contract renewed. Also leaving

are Bermondsey defender Deji Oshilaja and mid-fielder Andrew Shinnie. Others are

certain to follow as Adkins seeks to mould a promotion winning squad.

Liverpool loanee Liam Millar could be on his shortlist. The winger injected a satisfying punch of pace during his stay and scored two goals. Jayden Stockley the striker who came on loan from Preston may be top of Adkins list. He scored a hatful of goals (all but one with his head) and led the charge up front for most of the season. The wild card is Chuks

Aneke, a striker of immense power and

surprising agility, but matched with a mercurial temperament. He has had to be managed by both

Bowyer and Adkins and racked up a slew of yellow cards and two reds. I would expect him to stay and hopefully forge a deadly combination with Stockley. Connor Washington playing just in behind these two has had a good season and should be part of the squad.

Key in midfield was player of the year Jake Forster-Caskey. He picked up a long-term cruciate ligament injury in May and will be out for some months. Albi Morgan proved a good substitute in the closing games and can expect to be kept on. The defence was hit by injuries and needed constant shuffling. There were few clean sheets until captain Jason Pearce re-found his form and Ryan Innis returned from a long lay off. Ben Amos was a tower of strength in goal, pulling off some spectacular saves and keeping us in many games. He was runner up in the player of the year award. Fans favourite Chuks Aneke was third choice.

There's a mood of optimism about the club and we all look forward to being back at the Valley to cheer the boys on to promotion. Crongers fished. COYRs!



On the Grapevine ...

Book group

We've continued to meet on Zoom throughout lockdown but are looking forward to being able to meet up in person again.

We recently read *Weather* by Jenny Offill, which provoked much discussion. Our most recent book was *Hamnet* – many of us had been itching to discuss it but we waited for it to be published in paperback. Unusually everyone wholeheartedly enjoyed it.

We're still discussing when, where and how we can safely meet up in person and are not currently able to take on new members but will give contact details when we feel able to invite others.

Charlton Central On The Move Exercise Class

As lockdown restrictions ease we hope to begin our next set of sessions on Monday 21 June at 11.00 am in St Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road. The classes, run by Joanne our very experienced leader, aim to offer gentle yet challenging exercise routines for strength and flexibility. Each session has a slow warm-up, an invigorating movement section and a relaxing wind-down. Some good company and refreshments are available at the end of the session. Classes are booked in six-week blocks but we are currently full. However, if you would like to go onto the waiting list, please contact Brenda by emailing brendataggart49@gmail.com or telephone 0208 853 3354.

Charlton Community Gardens

Thank you to everyone who supported the Plant Sale in May. What with proceeds over £500 and the Thameslink grant, we look forward to refurbishing the Herb Bed in the Station Garden and establishing a raised bed on the down platform.

Knit and Natter

The knitting carried on during lockdown, but nattering was seriously hampered. We are now looking forward to meeting again in person and swapping our lockdown stories over exceedingly good cake and a cuppa.

Subject to government plans we hope to resume on Tuesday 27 July. Go to <https://www.charltonresidents.net> for updates. Further dates for your diary are Tuesday's – 31 August / 28 Sept / 26 Oct / 30 Nov / 21 Dec. All sessions are 2 – 4 pm in St Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road.

We have made gifts for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Neonatal unit where red hats used for babies who need extra observations were especially well received.

We also continue to donate tiny knitted storks to the London Ambulance Service for babies requiring Neonatal Transfer.

All skill levels are welcome, from absolute beginner to seasoned knitter. If you want to know more about how you can contribute to the charity sector, learn to knit or have a project in mind then contact Brenda on 07909 090 676 or email brendataggart49@gmail.com

Playing Out

We were delighted to reopen in April. We will be in Sundorne Road again from 3.30 pm to 5.30 pm fortnightly on the following dates: 23 June, 7 July and 21 July.

Playing Out allows children to experience free street play, which is important for their social and emotional development, as well as keeping them active. We will be operating under covid guidelines and ask everyone to sign in when joining the session. We look forward to seeing you and your children (not a drop off) for what is always a great afternoon. For more information go to: playingoutse7@gmail.com.

Singing and instrumental music groups

We have continued our fortnightly online singing sessions and a small but enthusiastic group of singers has attended throughout.

Our songs have included popular songs across several decades, sea shanties, African folk songs and, just recently, some Bob Dylan songs to mark his 80th birthday.

The instrumental music group has not been able to meet during this time. We hope to organise 'live' sessions once restrictions are lifted.

For more information about either of these groups, please look on our website or ring Chris on 020 8858 7377.

Walking group

With no changes to Government policy and a little bit of luck the Walking Group will be back out wandering the streets and open spaces! It will be a long-awaited pleasure to be able to see everyone again.

10.00am on Sunday, 13 June is the date and Charlton Station the meeting place for a local walk covering the family homes and significant landmarks of two grand families of the past.

The last edition of *Grapevine* had a piece about John Julius Angerstein and his family home, Woodlands in Mycenae Road, and the walk will take in significant places in the family's local history.

This edition tells you about another, the Enderby family. We'll pass Enderby Wharf and the house which is now a pub and restaurant. From there the riverside walk back to Charlton or to a convenient bus route.

To be included in Walking Group emails or for more information please contact Jill at jillmo@btinternet.com

CHARLTON CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Want to know what's going on in our streets? Want to get great advice on staying safe? Want to have an input into local policing priorities? Want to live in a safer and friendlier place?

If you answer yes to any of the above then why not become a member of Charlton Central Neighbourhood Watch (ccnwatch.org). The Watch is free to join and our regular updates and other correspondence will keep you in touch with

the area. If you are already a member, then why not volunteer to join our co-ordinating group. We are a very friendly and welcoming bunch who meet every couple of months, usually over a glass of wine and nibbles.

If you would like to join or want to know more about being a co-ordinator then drop an email to mail@ccnwatch.org or ring 020 8853 3354.

Dates for your diary

Sunday 13 June

Walking group meets 10.00 am at Charlton Station (see page 11 for more details)

Monday 21 June

Charlton Central on the Move (exercise class) St Richard's Hall 11.00 am (see page 11 for more details)



Wednesday 23 June

Playing Out. Sundorne Road 3.30 – 5.30 pm (see page 11 for more details)

Saturday 3 July

Community Day and Art Craft and Jumble Trail (see page 1 for full details)

Wednesday 27 July

Knit and Natter St Richard's Hall 2.00-4.00 pm (see page 11 for more details)



THUMBS UP

A big thumbs up to the many guerrilla gardeners of central Charlton who brighten our lives and our streets with their public displays of colourful plants and flowers.



THUMBS DOWN!



A big thumbs down to the local dog owners who have forgotten their responsibilities and let their animals foul our pavements. Lockdown seems to have made this problem much worse.



Contributions to this column are welcome!

GRAPEVINE

Comments, feedback, queries or material for the next edition of *Grapevine* should be emailed to grapevine@charltonresidents.net by 26 July. Alternatively, phone Joy Ogden on 020 8293 3034 or Bob Smith on 020 8853 2697. *Grapevine* reaches 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 ([facebook.com/centralcharlton](https://www.facebook.com/centralcharlton)) for details of CCRA events.



GREENGROCER  LOCAL BAKERY  REFILLS

MONDAY TO SATURDAY 9-5PM, SUNDAY 10-4PM

020 8319 8611



HIGH STREET RETAILER OF THE YEAR 2020



Charlton Central Residents Association