

THANKS A MILLION!

Charlton Toy Library celebrates 40 years of service to the community and raising more than £1m

Chris Mason's day job is as the BBC's new Political Editor, but on Sunday, 17 July he was joining in the fun at the 40th birthday celebrations of Charlton Toy Library, where his job was to cut the birthday cake and enjoy himself with his family and friends. He did a superb job all round. Chris became a member of the Toy Library when he moved to the area around four and a half years ago and his children were at the right age.

So, what does he enjoy most about being a member? Chris says: "I think one of our little ones being drawn towards a toy, taking it out for a couple of weeks, then giving it back, and you're not accumulating loads of other stuff. But actually, it's more about its charitable function for those who would find buying toys all the time too expensive. And you feel like things have been well-loved by lots of different Charlton kids, so that's great."

The charity, which was started in 1982 by local parents, estimates that since that time they have helped more than 20,000 children from 8,680 families. Tracking their accounts back to 1985 shows they have raised £1,439,192, which averages out to £36,000, per year, says John Stephens, Chair of Trustees at Charlton Toy Library.

Among the services they offer are weekly singing and story-telling sessions and stay-and-play sessions, as well as lending toys and a chance to interact with other children. They are currently open on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and the first Saturday of each month from 9.30am to 12.30pm, during term time. If you are interested in volunteering within the Toy Library, please email Vicky at info@charltontoylibrary.org.uk

In 1997 they started an outreach service, which supplies, completely free of charge for vulnerable families: toys, books, games, children's safety equipment, clothes and shoes, cots, bedding, together with baby equipment, nappies, prams,



etc, with food at Christmas and during covid. Other support includes advice on child development and behaviour, help with benefits, support on domestic abuse and sign posting to other relevant organisations. Currently the Toy Library has 182 families, of which 82 are on outreach.

Although the main premises in Charlton House were closed during the national lockdowns, the charity says it has still been continuing its outreach work, thanks to their incredible supporters and the following funders: BBC Children in Need, City Bridge Trust, Greenwich Charitable Trust and a Small Business Grant from the government, which has enabled them to continue providing shopping vouchers and toys for vulnerable families.

Janine Khoshnevisan, the charity's Treasurer and a trustee for 29 years, speaking at the celebrations, said: "With hard work, and sometimes by the skin on our teeth, we have gone from strength to strength over the years... COVID lockdowns altered the way we worked beyond recognition but we continued, as the need for our services rose sharply, but it affected our income. The cost of living crisis is having an enormous impact on us too, so we have begun a campaign to raise £4,000 to help cover rising operating costs so we can give struggling families free membership, and in extreme cases even basic food. During lockdown we gave outreach families over £8,000 worth of supermarket vouchers. If you are able, please do give a donation. Every penny helps. If you are

continued over page

STOP PRESS: Open Gardens, Sunday 21 August from 2-5pm, see p2 for further details

SAY IT WITH FLOWERS:
JOIN CCRA MEMBERS
AS THEY INVITE YOU
INTO THEIR GARDENS

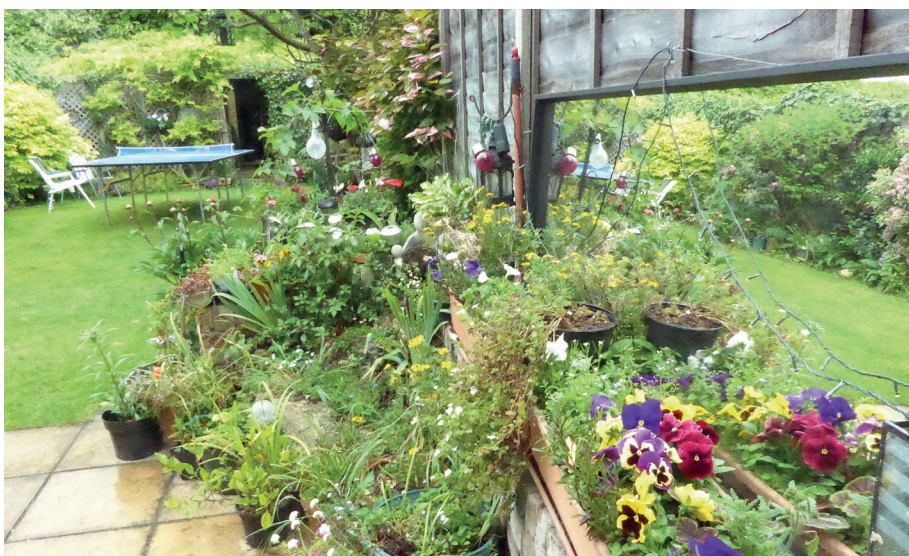
Opening time ...

For one day only, a number of CCRA members will be opening their gardens to other members between 2–5pm on Sunday 21 August, with about 6 gardens to visit.

So, put the date in your diary as it's a lovely opportunity to meet other members, see some local gardens and enjoy light refreshments with possibly the odd home-made scone.

If any member is interested in hosting one of the 30-minute garden visits, get in touch with Jane Bland, who can talk you through the process. Don't be put off if you've a terraced house, it's still possible to host.

More information will follow, in CCRA emails and you can contact Jane via email janebland22@hotmail.co.uk or telephone 07587 149466



THANKS A MILLION!

from previous page

not able to help with a donation you can still help us raise funds online."

Here is the 40th birthday URL for donation: cafdonate.cafonline.org/20933

So, what does Chris Mason regard as the toy library's major purpose and success? He says: "I think two things: one, it brings the community together and brings parents with young children together, which is great. Secondly, for families – regardless of their means, it means you can rotate lots of different toys through the house – and for those who are less fortunate, it gives them access to toys that they might not otherwise be able to afford, so I think those are its principal values – it's beneficial to all, but particularly beneficial to those whose means are limited."

■ For details of membership see: charltontoylibrary.co.uk/faqs

Where are our local police?

Staff shortages within our local Safer Neighbourhood police team mean that, as we go to press, only one officer is available for the whole of Charlton – a part-time support officer.

Our local Neighbourhood Watch has been lobbying for more staff but currently we are down to one person.

Inevitably this means slower Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) response times until the full complement is

restored – one Sergeant, one full time officer and one full time PCSO.

In an emergency you can ring 999 but if you want to report something that it isn't an emergency you can ring 101, or you can contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 08000 555 111.

Otherwise contact our local Safer Neighbourhood Team by emailing Charlton@met.police.uk or ring 020 3276 0812/ 0776 699 2585.

CCRA MEMBERSHIP MATTERS!

Join us, or renew your membership by visiting www.charltonresidents.net where you can join using our online form or download a paper copy to complete and return to 83 Swallowfield Road. Or call Jacqui (Membership Secretary) on 07717 742886, or email membership@charltonresidents.net for a 2022 Membership Form to be delivered. It is £7 for individual membership, £5.00 for students, or those on benefits, or £12 for a household/family. Many thanks to all who have renewed their 2022 membership.

Putting the community into Community Day

Saturday 2nd July was a wonderful day that saw local residents get together for our annual Community Day.

The event was a great success with our Clean-Up session (*right*) in the morning and the Arts, Crafts and Jumble Trail (*below*) in the afternoon.

Almost £400 was raised by our Silent Auction, with proceeds being split between CCRA and the Greenwich Foodbank.

Many thanks to all who put up stalls in their front gardens, visited the trail and made the day such fun.

Special thank you to members of CCRA's Management Committee, who

do so much to make CCRA events happen, the volunteers who cleaned and greened in the Clean-Up session or helped making lunch for the volunteers, or helped in St Richard's Hall during the Trail.

Your help was greatly appreciated.

It takes a community to make a community. The 2022 Community Day shows what a creative, generous and sociable community we are in the CCRA area.

■ If you'd like to get involved in running or planning future events, please contact our Chair, Jonathan, at chair@charltonresidents.net



Make a date: It's our flower power show

September isn't so far away, so now is the time to start preparing your entries for the annual Flower, Craft and Produce Show.

This year's event is being held in St Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road on Saturday 10 September 2022. **Put the date into your diary now.**

Doors open at 8am and entries will be accepted until judging starts at 10.45 am. We are grateful to the Blackheath and Greenwich branch of the Women's Institute who will, once again, be applying their expertise to over 70 classes of entries.

Demonstrate your growing skills by entering your garden/balcony/

window box/allotment produce.

We've got categories from herbs to flower arrangements.

If baking is your thing then there are 14 categories of bakes from bread to vegan cake.

Now is the time to start preserving all that lovely summer fruit, so why not enter the preserves section with your jam and marmalade.

If crafting is your thing, we have 8 craft categories of hand-mades from painting to cross stitch.

Alternatively you can get the camera out and enter a picture into our three categories: On the Water, The Crowd and In Charlton Village.

As well as the adult sections there are 5 categories for the under 8s and 4 categories for the 8-12 years age range.

Details of all the categories and the Hints and Tips can be found on the CCRA Website: www.charltonresidents.net (or look back to May's Grapevine) or ring Brenda [0208 853 3354] or Jill (020 8853 4366) for full details.

There are prizes for each category and the coveted **Best In Show**.

Go on, if you've never entered before, give it a go. It is great fun and a wonderful event that brings the community together.

Be part of bringing a traditionally 'village' event into the big city.

RIVERSIDE PROBLEMS

... they just keep rolling along

Developments on the Charlton riverside seem to be in a state of flux. We understand that changes of ownership are likely to impact considerably on the long term plans.

We hear that some sites, previously earmarked for housing, have been purchased by a company seeking to develop modern industrial and commercial workspaces. This could be good news for local people seeking permanent skilled jobs, but very much

puts in question the target of 8,000 housing units which has gradually replaced the target of 3,500 to 5,000 in the original Masterplan agreed by the Council.

The U&I site, once the Siemens factory, has been sold on and it is not clear whether the new owners want to progress with the proposals in the current planning application. And Komoto, on the riverbank just upstream from the Barrier, show no sign

of seeking early determination of their planning application, which has been gestating for 3 or 4 years.

As we go to press, the section 106 agreement, part of the planning permission given to Hyde Housing four months ago, has not been signed and has not been passed to the GLA. Part of it relates to funding for new roads and potential bus routes, which might impact on the agreement with the DfE to build a new primary school.

CCRA AGM and Quiz Night!

Want to know what we've been up to over the past year?

Want to have your say deciding what we should do in the year to come?

Want to join the biggest and the best quiz night in Charlton?

Then join us for our AGM – followed by our ever-popular Quiz Night – at St Richard's Church Centre on Saturday 9 October 2022. Everyone is welcome!

Our AGM will start at 6pm. It gives us a chance to meet friends and neighbours, to hear what's been going on and to discuss our plans for the future. Full members also elect officers and members of our management committee for 2022/23.

Our Quiz Night will then kick off at 7.30pm. Come as a team or join a team on the night. There will be a licensed bar selling refreshments, and fun prizes for the winning teams.

If you'd like to know more or are interested in joining our management committee, please contact our Chair, Jonathan, at chair@charltonresidents.net or on 07875 054597.

Bin there, done that! Station litter problem is sorted

In May's *Grapevine* we reported on the mountain of litter accumulating in the entrance to Charlton Station on Delafield Road. This was due to the station's bins being undersized and erratic collections. We are delighted to report that our efforts to improve this situation have had some success. After liaising with Southeastern's Stakeholder Engagement Manager (George Paterson) there has been a massive improvement. Bins are now being collected regularly and no bags have been left on the pavement. Once these bags were cleared away there has also been a massive reduction in fly-tipping. We will continue to monitor the situation but 'pester power' has prevailed. Mr Paterson will continue to hear from us if the situation deteriorates.

What has happened to the parking review?

The proposal to extend the current Charlton parking zone to a much wider area was consulted on before Christmas, and the results were compiled soon after.

There was a response from 843 people, nearly 12%, with an overwhelming majority, 84%, against any extension to the area or any change in the existing scheme, which includes

all CCRA streets. We are not aware of any formal decision to ditch the proposals but, since there was not a single road in support, it seems very unlikely to proceed.

Can we presume the 2 hours free parking in the existing zone remains and no meters will be installed? The 4 hour and All Day permits are no longer available and it is not clear what new

arrangements there will be for visitors. And, if it can be done without having to change the Traffic Management Order, why not make it free on all bank holidays, not just Christmas and Boxing Day.

It is after all supposed to be about protecting residents from commuters at Charlton station, not about making money.

Bin collection changes: Will they work?

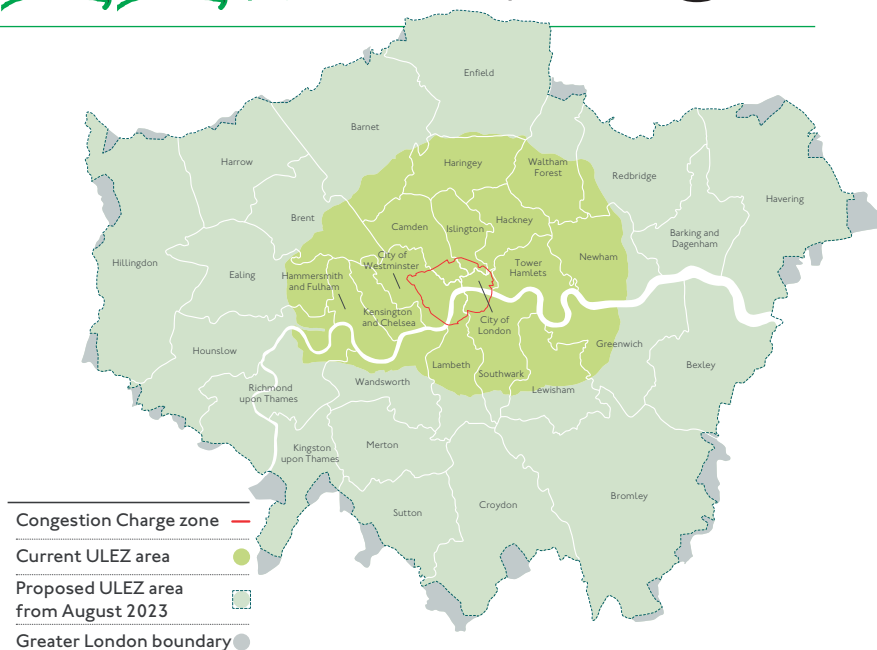
From next February, Greenwich Council is changing the arrangements for waste collection. The blue bins, dry recyclable waste, and the green bins, recyclable garden and food waste, will continue to be collected weekly. Black bins will only be collected every fortnight.

Rather surprisingly, the council claims that this will increase the percentage of waste that is recycled, a figure that has been falling in recent years. The evidence for this is that similar changes in other London boroughs have brought about such a change. It may be that knowing the black bin will not be emptied until the week after next will make us look more closely at what might go into one of the others and we will recycle a bit more as a result. Let's hope so; we shall have to wait and see. We will at least save money and reduce our vehicle emissions.

However it works out, it will hardly justify the claim in the council's paper, *Greenwich Info*, that 'Fortnightly general waste collections will be a huge step towards tackling climate change' and support the Mayor's target of a recycling rate of 50% by 2025. Improving recycling levels and tackling climate change are not achieved through statements and slogans.

Many remain confused about what can go in what bin, especially newcomers to the area, and the do's and don'ts of dealing with plastic is a particular problem. Thousands of residents in flats have no effective arrangement for recycling their waste, so it all goes to the incineration plant in Deptford. And if you can't drive to the recycling centre in Nathan Way, dealing with large items of rubbish can be very costly, and leads to increased fly-tipping.

Environmental targets have their place, but mean nothing without some major rethinking about how we all live and making some changes to our lifestyles. Most of all, we need a central government that takes climate change seriously. But local government needs to be open and honest about what a difficult task that is going to be. They are right to say we all need to work together, but a self-congratulatory slogan like 'Towards Zero Waste' doesn't take us very far at all.



London-wide ULEZ

The Mayor of London is planning to extend the Ultra-Low Emissions Zone (ULEZ) for cars vans and lorries to all 32 London boroughs from August 2023. The original zone was extended to inside the north and south circular roads last October, meaning that part of Greenwich but all of Charlton is already included. The rules will be the same: for cars and vans with 'dirty' engines, the charge for travelling anywhere in greater London will be £12.50 a day; for lorries the charge is much higher. All electric vehicles are excluded as are hybrids for the time-being; for petrol cars you can be reasonably confident it will meet the standard if registered after 2005 but for a diesel car, in most cases, it needs to have been registered after 1 September 2015.

The GLA is just finishing a consultation on these proposals

in a document which is extremely well set out and full of information and projections based on the London experience of ULEZ to date. They predict that by the end of 2023 the number of cars not meeting the standard would reduce from 160,000 now to about 40,000 and for vans from 42,000 to 28,000. Some of that would come from Eltham, Woolwich and Plumstead. Pollution doesn't stop at the zone boundary so we and the rest of inner London would benefit. We certainly need to: an appendix shows an estimate for premature deaths, resulting from the air we breathe, in Greenwich to be between 113 and 129 per year. That's deaths, many more, especially children, are seriously damaged for life from air pollution.

■ To look at the consultation, visit tfl.gov.uk/clean-air and click on view consultation on the first page

■ Several years ago, we carried out air quality tests at locations in or close to the CCRA area. They were carried out in the month of February, which is when pollution is usually at its highest point of the year. The results confirmed the high level of pollution in our area albeit slightly better than on the main road. CCRA is planning to repeat the exercise again next February, using the same locations. With a rise in traffic congestion, it will be a surprise if the situation has got any better.



They go like a Bullitt!

At first sight these two vehicles appear unlikely bedfellows. But there is a connection and it's all in the name. Transpose the elegant surroundings of Charlton House to the streets of San Francisco and you may get a clue.

The one on the left is a Ford Mustang Bullitt replica. Built in 2008 and one of only 7,700 produced (and one of only 100 in the UK), it is a dead ringer for the iconic Mustang driven through the streets of San Francisco by movie star Steve McQueen in the 1968 film *Bullitt*.

Forty years later Ford reproduced the car pictured here that is owned by Elliscombe Road enthusiast and *Grapevine* editor Bob Smith. It boasts a V8, 4.6 litre engine developing 315 bhp. It can go from 0-60 mph in five seconds and can reach a top speed of 151 mph. While its colour is highland

green, it's green credentials are not too impressive. Unlike its stablemate shown here, the LarryVHarry cargo bike, also proudly bears the name Bullitt. Whether the Danish owners were fans or merely giving a nod to manufacturing excellence is unknown but what is not in doubt is its environmentally friendly reputation.

It boasts three speed Shimano gears and is electric assisted. Charlton greengrocer Bee Pradhan, pictured, acquired the bike on a Greenwich Council loan scheme and is very happy with his Bullitt.

"I use it every day," he said. I've had it for nearly a year and have notched up several hundred miles doing deliveries. It's a great bike to ride. I think I can do 0-60 feet in about 20 seconds and haven't tried to work out a top speed yet."



SE London Camra pub of the year
SE London Camra cider pub of the year
SPBW Greater London pub of the year

More flights from City Airport are proposed

In the summer of 2019, London City Airport consulted on plans to increase the number of passengers a year to 11million by 2035 and wanted to end the closure between 12.30 on a Saturday and 12.30 on a Sunday, a 24-hour break for local residents, agreed when the airport opened. There was a lot of opposition to this proposal, and, because of the pandemic, the airport closed for a period. When the plan was published in 2020 the foreword said "we have no immediate plans to extend the operating hours, either during the week or at weekends".

Now the airport is consulting again. The new target is 9 million passengers a year, but they are again seeking approval for flights on Saturday afternoons, though not Sunday mornings. They also want an increase in the number of flights before 7am and more flexibility over the number of flights at the end of the day. There is a promise of quieter planes and 'net zero emissions by 2030'; that doesn't mean no noise and no poisonous fumes. The impact on people in Charlton of what will be about 50% more planes, will depend quite a lot on wind direction but new residents on the riverside will be very close.

Residents' parking permits

I am writing in case there are other people who are unaware of the changes in procedure for the administration of our Residents' Parking Permits.

I was told by staff in the Contact Centre that when my parking permit was about to expire, I would receive a letter like we used to do when we had paper permits to put on the windscreen. However the Parking Section say No, there will be no attempt to inform the car owner: it is your personal responsibility to keep track of when your permit expires. There is no mention of this in the Terms and Conditions for Parking Permits posted on the RBG website. Traffic Wardens have become more active in local streets and the grounds for appealing a ticket are limited to those stated in the dropdown menu.



LETTERS

Judy Wolfram

Doubles all round!

Congratulations to the River Ale House who won the CAMRA South East London Pub of the Year award for the second time in June. They also picked up the Cider Pub of the Year award for the second time. Landlord Trevor

Puddifoot who lives in Elliscombe Road said: "It's always good to win this award because it is voted for by customers, so we know we must be doing things about right." Trevor is pictured centre with his River Ale team.



Thirsty work: Charlton resident Iain Cameron samples the new beers

Cheers! They're open at last

After months of delays and frustrations the Green Goddess bar and microbrewery finally opened earlier this month on the old Barclays Bank site at the Standard. With an impressive 20 taps primed and ready, owners Stephen and Maryann O'Connor hope to be brewing on the premises as soon as parts are supplied. "It's been a long journey," said Stephen, "but we're nearly finished. There's some fine tuning to do, but the pub is up and running."

Charlton drinkers were introduced to the Green Goddess during the Covid pandemic when Stephen ran a pop-up pub from the back of Charlton House.

Fire Brigade to the rescue

Three cheers for Charlton's intrepid firefighters who came to the rescue earlier this month when the community gardeners ran out of water down at the station for their parched plants and vegetables. A quick call to the local fire station soon saw a tender at the scene where they were able to fill up the water container and save the produce. Members of the gardening team are pictured with one of the firefighters who helped save the day.



The Old Cottage Coffee Shop

A traditional tea shop serving high quality tea, coffee and snacks

Open every day from 10am in Charlton Park



Closes 4pm in winter and 5pm in summer



Michael John
Partner at Conran Charlton

When Should I List My Home For Sale?

This is a difficult one! There is no one-size-fits-all solution because everyone's circumstances are different. For example, finding a buyer too quickly may leave you scrambling to find a home that you want to buy yourself. Similarly, if you wait too long, you risk losing a home that you have your heart set on.

Some points to consider.....Before you begin selling/buying your home, look at what's available online to get a sense of what you do and don't like. Speak with an estate agent once you've determined what you want your next home to look like! Learn about the current market and how probable the agent feels your home will sell, based on comparisons and their experience. Will it sell in a week, or a month? And for the amount you need? Once you've determined this, you'll be able to ascertain when it's best to place your home on the market.

Assuming you wish to make an onward purchase, you should keep in mind that some agents/owners will only allow proceedable purchasers to view the property. This is more typical in certain areas, so bear this in mind, as you may have no real choice but to put your property on the market before viewing.

Typically, it's best if you launch your property before looking for your next home, as long as you're honest and transparent with prospective purchasers about your next steps. Provided you are open with your timelines from the outset; many buyers are happy to offer a degree of flexibility. However, be proactive in your search for your next home; browse online portals daily and schedule viewings as soon as possible. Despite the fact that you are not chain-free (which isn't always appealing to sellers), view the properties that interest you.

If your home is on the market/has gone under offer, you will have a better chance of having your offer accepted on your ideal home. We have observed several situations where vendors have accepted a lower offer from a buyer who is proceedable rather than a buyer who offers higher but is not proceedable (in many instances, their property is not on the market). Position can be more important than the offer, so don't assume that because you're offering more than other buyers, your offer will be accepted.

Good luck with finding your next dream home!

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conran
a refreshing change



POUND PARK ROAD, CHARLTON

ASKING PRICE £650,000

Reimagined, remodelled, refurbished! Quite simply an exceptional home that comes highly recommended by us. EPC: D



BRAMHOPE LANE, CHARLTON

OFFERS OVER £500,000

With a charming south-westerly facing garden, this super mid-terrace home has a lot to offer and is in a very desirable location too. EPC: C



SWALLOWFIELD ROAD, CHARLTON

OFFERS OVER £385,000

Beautifully presented throughout and offering high ceilings, double glazing and a long lease, this first-floor apartment is sure to please discerning purchasers. EPC: E



VICTORIA WAY, CHARLTON

GUIDE PRICE £425,000

Light-filled and spacious this is an impressive apartment that has been lovingly looked after and improved. EPC: D



SWALLOWFIELD ROAD, CHARLTON GUIDE PRICE £725,000 - £750,000

"We were first attracted to this house because it retained many of its original features; the fireplaces, the high ceilings and cornice work and the wooden floors. In the time we've been here, we've sympathetically modernised it and become part of a close community in the local area.

Sitting in the back garden has always been a peaceful pleasure. It's often surprised visitors how quiet it is,

yet has trains and a tube just a few minutes away that will get you into central London swiftly.

This house has been part of my family for over 30 years; the children grew up here and have now departed. It's a wonderful family home and it's time to hand the pleasure of living here to others who will enjoy it as much."

EPC: D



How happy is my valley?

... A view from the terraces

New manager Ben Garner sets out his stall for the coming season

Here we go again; a new manager and a new season. Sound familiar? Well we've been down this road more times than any fan would care to mention. And each time we have to start again, rebuilding the squad and hoping that THIS time it's going to be different.

So now we have Ben Garner, 42-year-old former boss of league two Swindon where he was highly thought of. Certainly the stats from Swindon last year were impressive. They just missed out on promotion, losing in the play-off final. But along the way they earned themselves a reputation as the team that scored more goals, had more shots, more shots on target and more possession than any other team in their league. Not bad. We can only hope Garner can transfer those talents to league one.

And one way he plans to do that is by bringing several of his Swindon squad. So far we have acquired six new players and three of them are from Swindon; goalkeeper Joe Wollacott, attacking right back Mandela Egbo and goal-scoring midfielder Jack Payne. The other signings are Stephen Sessegnon, 22, a versatile right back, on a season-long loan from Fulham; Conor McGrandles, 26, midfielder from

Lincoln City. He was regular team captain for the Imps last season. Eoghan O'Connell, 27, a ball-playing centre-back has also joined us from Rochdale.

No names there to make you want to bring out the bunting, but there is a proven track record at Charlton of bringing in quality players for specific roles. Equally we have a reputation for nurturing youngsters through the academy system. Time will tell. Garner has signed a three-year contract and is known for his attacking style of football.

Shortly after arriving at the Valley he outlined his intentions for the season to come. He said: "We want to implement attack from day one both at home and away. I want the team to be positive and confident and I want the fans to enjoy coming to watch us play."

Owner Thomas Sandgaard was upbeat about the new manager: "We were impressed by Ben's track record for playing attacking football and we were also impressed with his history of developing and improving players."

With all the rhetoric out the way we can now get back to the Valley and see if these fine words translate into actions. If the pre-season sessions are anything to go by it could be an interesting time. Watching a friendly against Kilmarnock at the Spanish training camp back in June suggested the attacking style is under way. Apart from a silly defensive error that cost us a 1-0 defeat, Charlton made the running and looked pretty good. At Dartford we notched up a 6-1 result with some notable performances from younger players and followed this with a 4-2 win away at Colchester, coming back from a first half two-goal deficit. Albi Morgan put the seal on it with a screamer from just outside the box.

The team were away at Sutton the following Saturday and secured a 0-0 draw, a reasonable result considering the temperatures were in the 30s. But now comes the crunch. The next few weeks will show what the Boys can do. We are not the full shilling yet. Having said goodbye to Conor Washington we need another striker and so far no names have been mentioned which means Stockley and Chucks will be shouldering much of the work up front. Any injuries and we could, like last season, end up struggling to score. The signs coming out of the Valley are of optimism. Sandgaard makes no bones about his determination to see Charlton back in the premier-ship. Let's hope this new squad can set us out on the right path to promotion. Congrats fished. COYR's.



St RICHARD'S CHURCH CENTRE

YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY ASSET
(corner of Swallowfield Road and Sundorne Road)

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On the Grapevine ...

Book group

Our most recent read was the *The Magician* by Colm Toibin – a book described as fictionalised biography, about Thomas Mann. Several of us felt that we wanted to know more about him and that we were interested to read some of his work – which few had. Apart from the immense complexities of the family, there were many resonances between the inter-war rise of fascism and current politics. In July we plan to read *The Night Watchman* by Louise Erdrich. In September our choice is *The Book of Form and Emptiness* by Ruth Ozeki which recently won Women's Prize winner for Fiction .

Although we are not currently taking more members, for more details contact Linda on 020 8858 7333.

Still On the Move

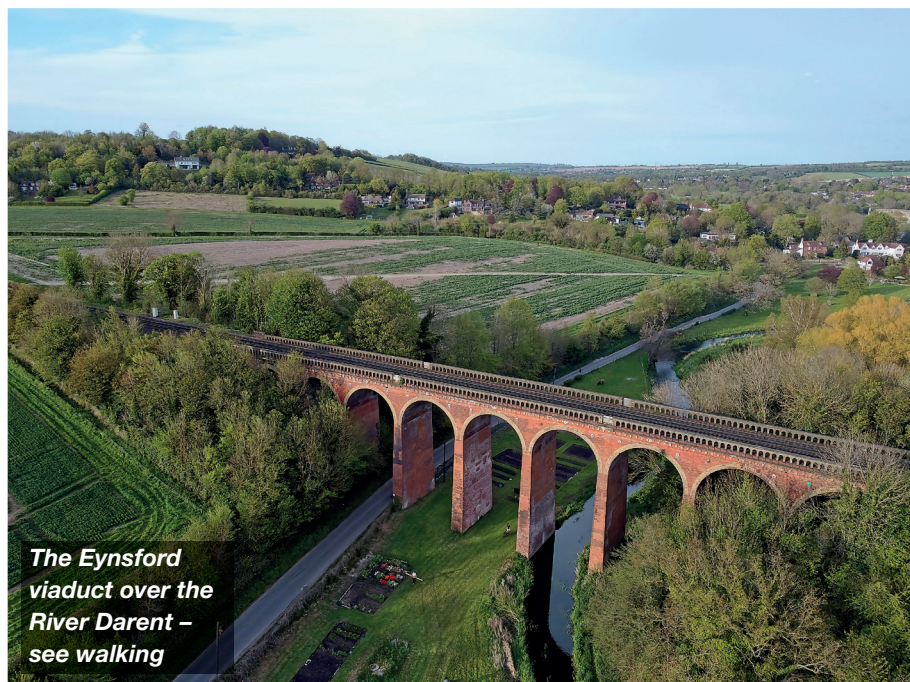
Every Monday morning at 11.30 Joanne gets us loosening up in the CCRA exercise group at St Richards. Gentle at first and a bit more vigorous as the hour goes by. The group decided to carry on through the summer perhaps because we undo all the good work with chat and refreshments at the end. We're oversubscribed but vacancies will arise. To book a space email to grapevine@charltonresidents.net or ring 07939090676

Knit and Natter

Come along and join us if you would like to have two hours away from the hustle and bustle of life. The K&N group meet in Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road – 2pm to 4pm on Tuesdays: 26 July, 27 Sept, 25 Oct, 29 Nov and 20 Dec. All are welcome from those wanting to learn to veteran knitters. Whilst we specialise in charity knits we welcome those with their own project. We knit and natter (and eat cake) – it's a simple as that. We look forward to seeing you.

CCRA Singing Group

We have just had our last session before the summer, singing our usual range of songs and finishing with *Here Comes the Sun* and *Summertime* from 'Porgy and Bess' to celebrate the



The Eynsford viaduct over the River Darent – see walking

coming of summer. We will resume regular sessions in September. If you are interested in joining the group please contact Chris on 020 8858 7377 – or just come along to one of our advertised sessions.

CCRA Instrumental Music Group ('SE7')

We have continued our regular sessions at Cattleya, and this month once again we were delighted to welcome the singer, Hope Augustus, to do a spot at the end of the evening.

We hope to resume these sessions after the summer. In the meantime, 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.

Walking Group

The Walking Group's Spring walks in East London and north-west Kent had a slight watery theme. In April we went to Stoke Newington, where we visited the quiet and tranquil Abney Park Cemetery; it was originally laid out as an arboretum, but later became known as one of the Victorian 'Magnificent Seven' cemeteries. From there we

strolled through Clissold Park with its animal enclosures, section of the New River, fountain, children's playground and cafe – the building was once the home of Jonathan Hoare, 18th century anti-slavery campaigner. By-passing the Castle Climbing Centre – once the Victorian pumping station for the area – and on to the two reservoirs which once provided the water for it. Little did we know that Hackney has such a range of green and pleasant land.

May's walk took us out of London to a very green and pleasant Eynsford, after leaving the station we started the walk by crossing over the 16th century bridge next to the ford on the River Darent – the meaning of which is 'clear water' reflecting the fact that it runs over chalk, making it an especially well filtered and clean river. We continued across the fields for great views of the railway viaduct (above), built in 1859, then on to pass the Roman Villa and the Castle at Lullingstone and ended up at the Visitor Centre for well-earned refreshments – and, yes, the sun shone for us!

The next walk will be on Sunday 14th August to Theydon Bois, Essex, meeting at Charlton Station at 10am. If you are interested in joining the Walking Group please email Jill at jillmo@btinternet.com

Dates for your diary

Sunday 21 August

Open Gardens
Members event
30 minute garden visits
Between 2-5pm
See p2 for details



Saturday 10 September tbc

Flower, Produce and Craft
Show at St Richard's Hall,
Swallowfield Road
Deliver entries between
8am & 10.45am

Hall closed for judging
10.45am-2.30pm
(See previous
Grapevine for
Further details)



Saturday 8 October

CCRA AGM & Quiz night
(See page 4 of this issue for
further details)



THUMBS UP



...to this tenacious Madonna lily, whose desire to live and display its beauty has been drawing admiration from residents of Elliscombe Road where it has defied the odds and forced its way through the tarmac footpath to thrive.

THUMBS DOWN!



... to the crisis that has left Charlton without adequate local police cover (see page 2).

Contributions to this column welcome!

Brass on the grass

The popular brass band concerts in Charlton Park began again on 8 July and will continue until September.

Traditionally starting with Royal Greenwich Brass Band and titled Brass on the Patio, an audience of more than 100 people enjoyed a varied selection of pieces supervised by their regular musical director Stephen Maw.

The audience may look sparse but they were there ... sheltering under the shade of the trees as high temperatures cooked the lawns at the rear of Charlton House.

The following Friday saw a new nine-piece band present Brass on the Hill, a mix of jazz and Latin rhythms melded with funk and pop.

Most of the compositions were by members of the band and they received a warm welcome. Soaring temperatures again saw an audience of nearly 200 sheltering under the trees.



Royal Greenwich Brass Band in action



Brass on the Hill entertaining the Friday audience

GRAPEVINE

Comments, feedback, queries or material for the next edition of *Grapevine* should be emailed to grapevine@charltonresidents.net by w/b 29 August. Alternatively, phone Joy Ogden on 020 8293 3034 or Bob Smith on 020 8853 2697. *Grapevine* reaches 900 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 four. Panel ads single column 8cm x 8cm: £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.



Charlton Central Residents Association