

## GO-AHEAD FOR FIRST MAJOR SCHEME ON RIVERSIDE

Plans from Hyde Housing for over 1200 new homes on Charlton Riverside were agreed by the Planning Board in March on the casting vote of the Chair after a 4-4 vote.

The first stage gives full planning permission for a 10-storey development on the river front, next to the aggregate site run by Tarmac, which is in line with the Masterplan, but also includes a second site on the other side of Herringham Road, that also contains 8,9 and 10 storeys in an area for which the guidelines were for 3-5 storeys only.

The second stage on adjacent sites, to be built in a few years' time, gave outline approval for about 500 homes, also dense flatted accommodation up to 10 storeys, on what was envisaged to be no higher than six.

At the first stage there will be a total of 718 new flats with around 55% 'affordable', either for rent or for part rent/part purchase. As things stand the council has agreed that 80% of the second stage will be for sale; this can only be changed if Hyde choose to do so.

Hyde have received £22.5m to ensure that a high proportion of the first stage will be 'affordable', but nothing so far for stage two. Some people have been surprised to learn that Hyde Housing now sell much of what they build on the open market.

Once the small local housing association, founded in Hyde Vale, in Greenwich, they will still have continuing responsibility for the tenants in the rented housing they develop, but in other respects they are now like other big housebuilders with assets of many, many millions. However, they will have a significant role to play in developing Charlton Riverside and should have shared concerns about good community facilities.

So, at the very centre of the Charlton riverside area, the low/medium rise human scale vision has been ditched. Potential developers are delighted. They see an opportunity to push for 10 storeys or higher across the whole of Charlton riverside, as they have done successfully along so much of the borough's waterfront.



The Tarmac site

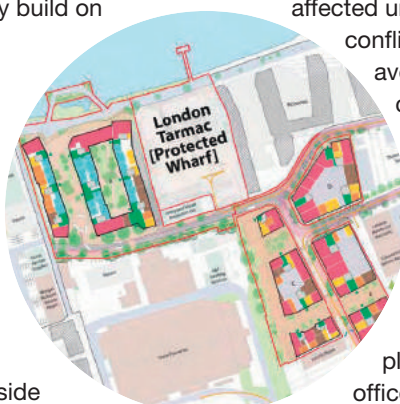
When we were consulted on drafting the Masterplan, we had many reasons for resisting high rise development. They are for example not child friendly, they overshadow surrounding areas – blocking light and creating wind tunnels – and they are not conducive to community development. This decision will make it more difficult to stop Charlton riverside looking like Woolwich and the Peninsular.

### POLLUTION FEARS

Major concerns remain about flats immediately adjacent to the Tarmac site which will be built with windows designed not to be opened, as part protection from the noxious fumes generated. The chimney on the site was built at its present height to protect people in the vicinity but it will be well below ten storeys high and will generate nauseating smells and odours, something not normally accepted in a new development.

The planning board report included this tortuous conclusion: "The proposals will include mitigation for the affected units such that it is considered undesirable conflict with the uses at the wharves will be avoided". Health and noise officers for the council and Hyde went along with this, but an air pollution expert representing Tarmac considered the plans "a considerable risk to public health" and Tarmac still have a real fear they could be judged to be acting illegally when residents move in. Hyde own the Tarmac site.

Charlton Together, which opposed the plans, has raised the issue with planning officers since the planning board meeting, but have been told that, since the decision was taken with advice from environmental health officers, the mitigation measures were satisfactory and it must stand. It is still possible that the GLA, which seeks to retain working wharves, could take a fresh look.



**STOP PRESS:** Greenwich Council elections have resulted in 52 Labour members and 3 Conservatives. In our ward, Labour candidates Gary Dillon with 1491 votes and Jo Van Den Broek with 1346 were elected. Clare Loops, a Green candidate with 427 votes, came next.



## What a load of old rubbish ...

We shouldn't have to put up with this! CCRA and Councillor Linda Perks have been working tirelessly to address the problems caused by rubbish overflowing from the bins at Charlton Station. Bags are frequently left out before collections, ripped open by foxes, with their contents blown along Charlton Church Lane and Delafield Road. In response to our request for information

South-eastern railways said that 'a lot of work is going on behind the scenes to resolve this situation as it's not acceptable and we do apologise'. We will continue to monitor this and unless there is a dramatic improvement we will pursue this with George Paterson, Stakeholder Engagement Manager.

## Community safety

The Charlton Central Neighbourhood Watch (see [ccnwatch.org](http://ccnwatch.org)) is the 'go to' place for information about all aspects of community safety. We provide advice and liaison with our local Safer Neighbourhood Policing Team over issues affecting our area. Would you like to join a group that really helps to keep our streets safe and secure? The co-ordinating group holds quick meetings every couple of months and they are never boring!! For more information about becoming a co-ordinator or if you want to join the CCNWatch, email: [mail@ccnwatch.org](mailto:mail@ccnwatch.org) with your contact details or ring 07939 090 676.

# Food for thought

Greenwich Foodbank is running low on food and other essentials. Can you help?

Given the current increase in the cost of living, demand is outstripping supply. You can donate items at local large supermarkets or make an online one-off direct donation of money at: <https://greenwich.foodbank.org.uk>

In March CCRA ran a 'pop up' food bank and collected 103 kilos of food, which was an amazing amount of food and toiletries in just a couple of hours.

Percy of Delafield Road went to the supermarket with his parents to choose the items he wanted to donate. Thanks Percy and everyone else who contributed.

## FLOWER, PRODUCE AND CRAFT SHOW

It's that time of year again when the garden wakes up – we get seed planting and start to think about all things Flower and Produce (F&P)! Last year's Flower, Produce and Craft Show was our best-ever as we all flocked to St Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road, after so many cancelled social events due to Covid 19. This year's F&P will take place on Saturday, 10 September 2022, so start planning your entries now – See the insert for details of the Show and look at the website [charltonresidents.net](http://charltonresidents.net) for our important Hints and Tips on what to enter in the Show, ranging from flowers and vegetables, bread, cakes and chutney, to embroidery, artwork, photography and much besides. There are certificates and prizes to be won including the much-coveted BEST IN SHOW... Get planning.

## Young crafty crafters

Are you, or a member of your family/friends, keen to learn a new craft and between the ages of 9 and 16?

Perhaps you are part of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme or a member of the Scouts/Guides/Rangers and would like to obtain a craft award?

CCRA run a regular adult knitting group and are keen to

restart, after Covid, our young person's knitting group. We can teach knitting from scratch and provide equipment.

Be part of a group that are keeping alive traditional crafts. If you would like to know more about these free classes, contact [grapevine@charltonresidents.net](mailto:grapevine@charltonresidents.net) with contact details or ring 07939 090 676 and we'll get back to you.



## Trev's triumph!

Congratulations to Elliscombe Road pub landlord Trevor Puddifoot who has won Camra's South East London Pub of the Year award for the second time. The ever-popular River Ale House micro pub, on Woolwich Road, Greenwich, continues to serve an extensive range of ales, ciders, and gin. Trevor said: "We were delighted to get the award for a second time. We regularly change our beers and always have something interesting on tap. We hope to celebrate our win in the very near future."

## CCRA membership matters – It really does!

Join us, or renew your membership by: Visiting [charltonresidents.net](http://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 07717742886, or email [membership@charltonresidents.net](mailto: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.**





Shopping and chatting in Delafield Road



Stalls outside St Richard's Hall

# Community Day: Saturday, 2 July

Big clean in the morning with the Arts, Crafts and Jumble Trail in the afternoon – what's not to like ...?

In the morning we start with our clean-up session: can you spare some time to help?

Show our area some love by joining other residents to:

- litter pick in our roads or
- tidy and identify tree pits or
- help weed areas CCRA have planted out as part of our greening programme

Meet between 10 and 10.15am in St Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road. You will be put into teams and we welcome all: young, old and those in-between. We will provide Hi-Viz jackets, litter picking equipment and gloves. Please bring your own trowels or secateurs if you would like to tidy tree pits or weed. All who come along will be rewarded by a nice lunch in St Richard's as a thank you.

## Arts, Crafts and Jumble Trail 2-5pm

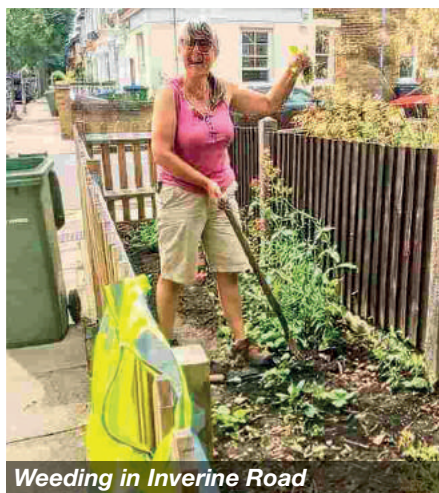
Back in the afternoon, by popular demand, the Arts, Craft and Jumble Trail. What a lovely community event the Trail was last year – and many thanks to all who had stalls and worked at St Richard's during the event.

Basically, you set up your stall in the front garden and people will use the CCRA map to find and visit the

houses with stalls. The Trail is open to all residents in the CCRA area. The stall costs are:

- £6.00 for CCRA Member
- £10.00 for non CCRA Member (to include individual membership for 2022, which normally costs £7.00)
- £8.00 without membership for 2022.

We will also be offering a small number of stalls at St Richard's Hall for members only, who do not have access to a front garden or are Associate Members living outside the CCRA area. The cost for these stalls will be as above for members only. Number of stalls are limited so get in touch early.



Weeding in Inverine Road



And here's Foxy...

The stalls that worked last year were those whose items were reasonably priced, of good quality or quirky. Many stalls were also for charity which was great. Last year we had a range of wonderful vintage items, bric-a-brac, books, handmade items such as furniture, clothes, artwork and jewellery, and gifts. Some homemade dog-biscuits were very popular.

For children, Foxy will also be making an appearance again on the trail and we will be holding a Silent Auction at St Richard's for some particularly lovely paintings and other interesting items. You can view items between 2 and 4.15pm, with the bids opening at 4.30pm

We have more activities planned for the Trail: check out the website: [www.charltonresidents.net](http://www.charltonresidents.net) or look out for emails and bulletins if you're a CCRA member, or local posters about the day nearer the event.

■ If you would like a stall, advice about what is involved, or would like to volunteer to help on the day, call Jacqui on: 07717742886, or email [jumbletrail@charltonresidents.net](mailto:jumbletrail@charltonresidents.net)

# Council agrees neighbourhood forum

The application to set up a Charlton Neighbourhood Forum has been broadly agreed by the Council, but it has redrafted the boundary of the area proposed. Excluded are some of the oldest parts of Charlton, a section of the Woolwich Road parallel to Gurdon Road and Troughton Road and adjacent streets, and the new flats off Victoria Way.

Also left out are the shopping centre and businesses on both sides of Bugsby's Way, but the major development site on the riverside is included. We understand the Forum's committee agreed to invite residents in the excluded area to support a petition expressing disappointment at the Council's amendment.

Charlton Forum has begun preparing a neighbourhood plan for the area, which at this stage means engaging with people who live and work in the area, encouraging them to get involved in the process.

When completed, the plan will need to be approved by those in the neighbourhood area through a referendum. The adopted plan will have an important status alongside the London Plan and the Greenwich local plan in the process of determining planning applications.

The preparation of a plan for Charlton will take some time, during which anyone signed up as a forum member will be consulted on various issues.

In the meantime, Charlton Forum

becomes a statutory consultee on all local planning applications. When major housing and commercial applications are agreed, the developers pay a Community Investment Levy, (CIL), a contribution to the cost of local infrastructure and services; the Forum becomes part of the process of how 15% of this levy should be spent locally.

Membership is open and free to anyone who lives, works or studies in the designated area. To join, there's a very simple application form on the website at [charltonneighbourhoodforum.org](http://charltonneighbourhoodforum.org).

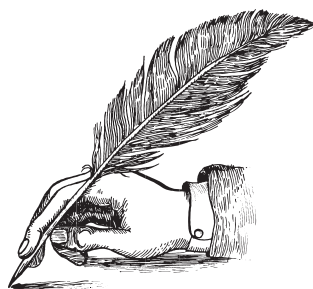
The Forum's elected officers are: Clare Loops (Chair), Paul Chapman (Vice Chair), Brenda Taggart (Secretary) and Helen Brown (Treasurer).

## Letters

### Dear Editor

Park it ... where? Having read about RBG's proposal to increase the Charlton Parking Zone (CPZ) from the river up to Shooters Hill, myself and a neighbour felt we needed to take action.

Living on Delafield Road, parking is already very difficult, with people from the 'C' zone coming to park near Charlton Station. One neighbour said she knew



of someone in Wellington Gardens who drove to Delafield Road to park their car!

If it goes through, RBG's proposal to expand the 'C' zone would make it nigh-on impossible to park

on Delafield Road and other streets around the station.

Why should we pay £105 a year to park in our street when it would become increasingly difficult to get a parking space?

My neighbour and I petitioned all Delafield Road houses and the response was overwhelmingly positive. Everyone signed our petition, asking the council to reconsider not only the preposterous CPZ expansion plan, but also the suggested

removal of the free two-hour parking facility.

As a result of our petition, I was invited to present the case at an RBG Highways Committee Meeting in March. I implored the council to consider the effect these changes would have on the elderly, people with young children and the infirm. I have not heard from them as yet about their decision. Watch this space!

**Vikki Barrie,**  
**Delafield Road**

### 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*

### Dear Editor

Go before you go ... On the open day, I visited the new Woolwich Station on the Elizabeth Line. On entering, the huge cathedral-like interior is very striking.

But it wasn't long before I was distracted by the need to find a 'Ladies'. On asking, I was politely told there were none – so I qualified my question with "None open today or just none at all?" and it appears there are no public toilets in the new Crossrail stations!

\* The first stage of the Crossrail/Elizabeth Line will open on Tuesday, 24 May with 12 trains an hour from 6.30 to 23.00 at first. There will initially be no trains on Sundays, except for Jubilee week.

Reacting to my panicky stare, I was told there will be many more on each of the trains – but we were not on a train, nor would those waiting for trains, meeting others, accompanying children, the elderly or those who just didn't 'go' before they left home or work.

Let's hope the 24 trains per hour that will eventually run will not be subjected to delays, breakdowns or emergencies.

**Jill Austen,**  
**Delafield Road**



## Deep trouble

In this country we are pretty complacent about water, taking for granted that it will simply come out of the tap as and when we need it. For most of us drought means nothing more than being unable to water the garden or wash the car.

The Victorians recognised that insanitary conditions had an impact on the health of the nation and set about creating reservoirs, pumping stations and sewage systems in an attempt to bring clean water to all.

Since then, we've not done so well. It's astonishing that the first new reservoir since the privatisation of the water industry in 1989 was only given planning approval at Havant last summer.

It will not be operative for another three or four years. And that, despite the fact that both the population and demand for water have vastly increased.

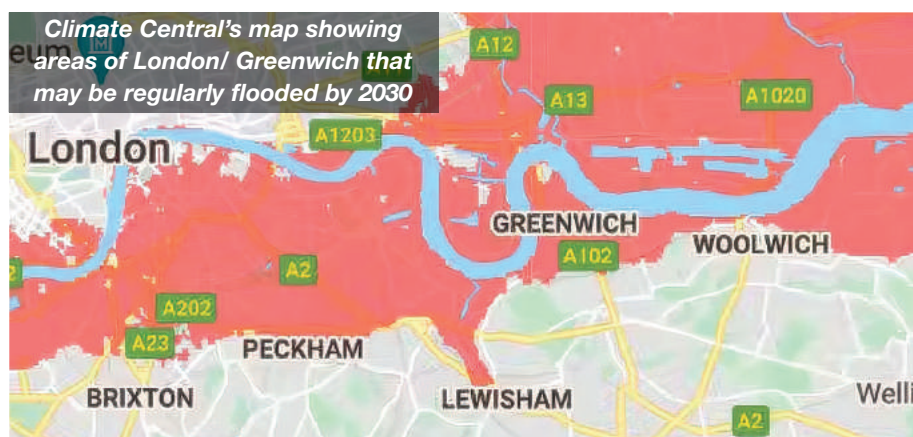
With a growing recognition of the impact of climate change, we have a greater understanding of the effects of horrendous traffic jams, with cars and lorries pumping out filthy fumes and lung-damaging particulates every day. Air pollution is near the top of local concerns, but water pollution generally has a lower profile.

### Flooding

Recently we have experienced more frequent extreme weather and we can expect it to get worse. In some parts of the country, flooding has become an annual event; two or three times a year in some places – as seas rise due to global warming. Hundreds of thousands of homes can no longer get insurance.

Last year a few parts of London experienced torrential rain for only a short time but became seriously flooded because existing drainage cannot cope.

In South-East London, as well as



the chance of a sudden flash flood, we are at risk of flooding from the River Thames. The Thames Barrier was designed to protect us from such an event, but a new barrier will be needed and is already under consideration for perhaps 40 years' time.

The flood of January 1928 was caused by high tides and rainstorms as well as snow melting very fast as far away as the Cotswolds. Much of central London, as well as parts of Greenwich and Woolwich and Charlton Riverside, was devastated, which prompted the rebuilding of many embankments.

We are still vulnerable. Last year, ocean temperatures were the highest ever recorded and there are predictions that sea levels will rise by 30 centimetres by 2050. That might not sound much but there is now evidence that large areas of London may experience regular flooding as soon as 2030. As the map above illustrates, this would have a

serious effect on the Peninsula and on Charlton Riverside – both identified as areas of increasingly dense housing.

If flooding takes place, it is not just devastating for householders. The supply of safe water and control of sewage is jeopardised; and disease becomes high risk.

Concreting over front gardens, huge car parks and new building which takes away green drainage space, increases the chance of surface flooding. And we've got plenty of that in Charlton, as well as some very old leaky drainage systems.

We may continue to be lucky. Weather patterns in southern England may not change too dramatically and some of the worst scenarios for flooding in London, showing large stretches of the riverside under water, may not materialise. But potentially it's as big a threat as air pollution. It's time we took water seriously.

### WATER POLLUTION

Officially Thames Water and the other privatised water companies are permitted to discharge untreated waste into the river only in exceptional weather conditions. In 2020, water companies in England discharged raw sewage into rivers on more than 200,000 occasions without the regulators taking action.

Although there are plans to tighten up on the dumping of sewage, all over the country, some of our most beautiful rivers and streams have become badly polluted and fish and other wild life are in decline. And Britain's beaches are some of the dirtiest in Europe. Water pollution is not just a problem in poor and undeveloped countries.

However, there is some good news for Londoners. A huge new sewer pipe, the Thames Tideway Tunnel, for which we, (but not the shareholders), have been paying in our water bills since 2011, is due to come on stream in 2025. It is claimed it will intercept at least 94% of what is being discharged into the river at present. Let's hope the regulators will toughen up on the other 6% as well.

From small beginnings, a simple keep fit idea has turned into a global success. Veteran runner **Bob Smith** investigates

It's a chilly morning in Charlton Park and the temperature is not much above zero. Undeterred, 200 local runners are gathering for their ritual weekly event. Several are members of CCRA, including me. Come rain, sun, fog or frost, a band of intrepid people will don their kit and head for the park to run 5k. Every Saturday at 9am it is the same across 22 countries around the world.

Parkrun has become a global phenomenon since it began at Bushy Park, Teddington, in 2004. Then just 13 runners took part. But, boy, has it grown! UK statistics from 19 January, 2022 show that at the last run there were 950 events; 139,275 runners; 20,437 volunteers; 8,069 first timers and 17,082 people chalked up a personal best time.

By any stretch of the imagination parkrun has been an amazing success. Club runner Paul Sinton-Hewitt who dreamed up the idea cannot have conceived how big it was to become. It began slowly and took two years before spreading to Wimbledon. Then it went to Banstead Woods in Surrey – all London peripherals – and began to snowball.

By 2008 there were six simultaneous events with more than 800 participants. In January 2009 1,500 runners were at the starting line in 11 events and it has grown from strength to strength leading to 950 events by this January. In April that figure was well over 1,000.

What is the secret of its success? Perhaps it's the simplicity of the concept – to encourage people of all ages and abilities to get physically active in a simple, achievable way. Sinton-Hewitt says his aim is to create a healthier, happier planet. And it seems to be working.



*Elliscombe elite: CCRA runners Bob Smith, left, Rosemary Leeke and Matt French*

# On the run

Take Charlton parkrun. People of all standards participate. There are mums pushing buggies, people leading dogs (or dogs leading people) young teenagers, senior citizens (like me!) steady joggers, and elite runners. All join in. The atmosphere is festive.

Each participant must have signed up beforehand and obtained a barcode. This is to record data at the finish line, something all runners like to have. You only need to register once. After that it is plain sailing. Real enthusiasts broaden their horizons and take part in parks up and down the country, ticking off each new venue as they go. I have met people from Kent, north London and even one man from Scotland.

Parkrun is a free, not-for-profit organisation and depends entirely upon a thriving band of volunteers who turn up each Saturday to keep the events running as smoothly as the runners themselves. Any donations received go to the upkeep of the parks.

It has caught the imagination of some impressive athletes who have lent their name and support to the organisation. Mo Farah has participated, Dame Kelly Holmes has completed more than 30 runs; Olympic Triathlete Alistair Brownlee is a parkrunner along with snooker ace Ronnie O'Sullivan. And BBC journalist and newsreader Sophie Raworth has chalked up an amazing 158 runs.

Darren Wood, one of the original runners

***Santa's sprinters:  
Charlton runners  
celebrate the  
pre-Christmas event***







holds the record with an incredible 740 runs. Coveted commemorative T-shirts are available.

Charlton Park is past its 30 events. One of those who helped it get started is Jennifer Hien. She got together with like-minded friends and with help from local companies and Greenwich Council got the event off the ground.

What appears to be a seamless experience for us runners, has taken some time and effort to organise. From a core team of eight and together with 70 volunteers (20 each week) Charlton parkrun goes smoothly. In fact there are now three park runs in the borough, Sutcliffe Park and Avery Hill being the other two.

Jennifer says: "It's a great way to keep fit and foster a community spirit. But we couldn't do it without our wonderful band of volunteers." Sarah Brimble, another organiser, said: "It's important to stress that this is not a race! It's a great opportunity for people of all abilities to come together and enjoy a communal activity. And you can never be last because we always have a designated person at the back making sure everyone gets home safely."

Elliscombe Road boasts at least four park runners. Rosemary Leeke, takes time off from her swimming regime to join in the fun. She said: "I do a lot of swimming at Charlton Lido, but I felt it was time to do some weight-bearing exercise. I'm not the fast athlete, but I love the atmosphere. Everyone seems to enjoy themselves."

Matt French has racked up eight events now

***And they're off:  
Starting line up on a  
cold morning parkrun  
in Charlton Park***

*'My job involves sitting at a desk for most of each day, so this is a wonderful way to shed a few pounds and keep fit. It's a great idea. Charlton would be the poorer without it'*

and explained: "My job involves sitting at a desk for most of each day, so this is a wonderful way to shed a few pounds and keep fit. It's a great idea. Charlton would be the poorer without it."

Keep fit fanatic Leslie Guildford is a newcomer. "I recently did my third run and love it. We are so close to the park it only takes five minutes to get there. I've got a half marathon coming up in September so this is good training."

Up to 26 April, there were 29 events with 2,062 finishers. Fastest woman at Charlton is Holly Dixon with a time of 17.23. Fastest man was Chris McGurk in 15.32. There were 1,064 personal bests. I'm proud to say five of them were mine, though it is getting harder to achieve a top time with each new event. On a recent outing I failed to break 30 minutes, but I was carrying my notebook and camera! On my second run I finished second in my age group. I was feeling very good about that until I thought: because I'm 73, there may only have been two runners in my age group so whilst I was second, I may also have been last. On my third outing I came first in my age group.

Great to be first but I may also have been the only participant in my age group and therefore also last! I prefer not to know. I've managed nine runs now and hope to do many more.

Since I started, I have met several keen CCRA members at the start line and I suspect there may be several more. Is there an elite little club in the offing?

## OPEN HOUSE, OPEN AIR, OPEN MIND

Community champion Chew-Yeen Lawes has returned to Charlton Park to lead her popular chi gong and tai chi sessions on Saturday mornings.

They take place on the grass at the back of Charlton House, begin at 9.45am and last an hour. Chew-Yeen

is running them in conjunction with the Charlton Delivery team working with the Royal borough.

"Exercising in the early morning sun offers infra red sunlight that helps us make vitamin D and the sleep hormone melatonin.

Both are vital for our immune system, health and wellbeing," explained Chew-Yeen.

Sessions are open to all ages, are free, and run until 11 June. The first exercises saw nearly 40 people take part.

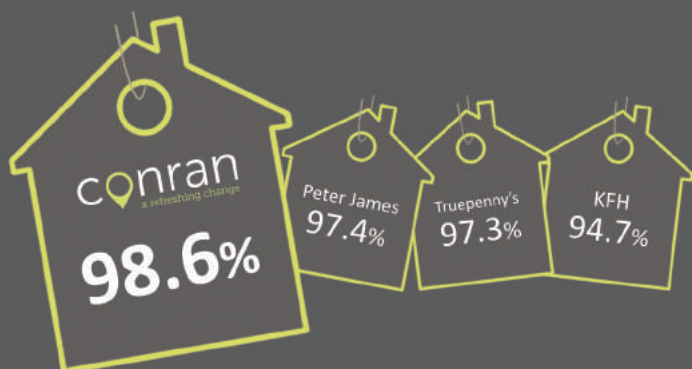


# conran

a refreshing change

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\* Source: Land Registry Data May 2022

\*\* Source: GetAgent Data May 2022. Average property price in Charlton £598,066

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**FAIRTHORN ROAD, CHARLTON**

GUIDE PRICE £575,000

With a bit of updating required internally, this end of terrace Victorian house promises a superb family home. EPC: D



**MONTCALM ROAD, CHARLTON**

OFFERS OVER 575,000

Bursting with potential, this is a perfect home for any growing family with oodles of space, a substantial garden, and a fantastic location too. EPC: E



**STONEFIELD WAY, CHARLTON**

GUIDE PRICE £700,000 - £720,000

A welcoming home that has been beautifully extended and refurbished with a wonderful sense of flow and balance. EPC: D



**FAIRFIELD GROVE, CHARLTON**

ASKING PRICE £575,000

What a rare opportunity to purchase this large four-bedroom home, situated on a great corner plot, offering abundant space inside and out. EPC: D





## HILL END, SHOOTERS HILL

ASKING PRICE £695,000

"We have loved living in our house for the past 26 years! We have grown with our house, along with our children who have now all flown the nest.

Sympathetically extending our house and renovating it has been a joy. We feel we have created a beautiful home where we all get together as a family, cooking and baking in the kitchen, dining and entertaining in the conservatory and garden. The garden has been a labour of love, it's secluded and peaceful with the many birds that visit, including a woodpecker.

Shooters Hill is a community in itself, but Hill End is something so

unique. That is due to our many wonderful neighbours. We share a WhatsApp group and all look out for each other. They say home is where the heart is and my heart is firmly here but my children are now in different areas, so that is where we now need to be."

We agree entirely with the seller: this is a terrific spacious family house in a peaceful cul-de-sac where people rarely move! Offering ideal family space, gardens and parking, this is an ideal home in a convenient location.

EPC: D





# How happy is my valley?

... A view from the terraces

## Farewell to a club legend but where do we go from here?

In the end it was down to one simple fact: results. Manager and fans' favourite Johnnie Jackson has been sacked after steering the side to a disappointing 13th place in League One. And that, said owner Thomas Sandgaard, was not good enough. It is believed that JJ's contract stipulated a finish of eighth or higher, so he must have known some weeks ago that his number was up.

It's always good to finish a season with an emphatic result and 4-0 is certainly that. Unfortunately it was 0-4 against, a drubbing away at Ipswich that left no one in any doubt that there is a mountain to climb if we are to get promotion next season. Post match, JJ was phlegmatic, perhaps numbed by too many defeats this season – 21 to be precise.

He was disappointed particularly as more than 2,000 fans travelled to Ipswich to witness the debacle. "It's a timely reminder of what needs to be done," he said ruefully. "I have learnt a lot of lessons this season and there is a lot of work to do. It has been a very frustrating time."

Sadly, we will never know what his plans were for next season. But every single Charlton fan wishes him well and no-one can deny his total commitment to the club he joined on loan in February 2010. He became a permanent player that summer and went on to make 279 appearances, scoring 55 goals. As a captain he was an outstanding leader and as his time as a player came to a close, he moved to coaching and

then became assistant manager to Lee Bowyer before finally taking over the reins earlier this season.

Jackson could cite two significant factors that ultimately brought about his demise: first, he was not in charge for the early part of the season which saw former boss Nigel Adkins get us off to one of the worst starts in the club's history as we descended into the drop zone. JJ had to deal with the squad he inherited and he quickly made the most of it, bouncing back with a series of top class results, propelling us back into contention.

Then came factor two: injuries. In a short space of time we lost five forwards including Chuks Aneke, Connor Washington and Jayden Stockley, leaving us with youngster Mason Burstow and winger Jonathan Leko to lead the line.

Exciting young winger Cory Blackett-Taylor distinguished himself only to get injured almost as soon as he broke through to first team ranks.

Inevitably, we edged closer to relegation. With the return to fitness of our men up front, results turned again and with five wins in a row the future began to look rosy. But consistency was not there.

The same team that won on a Saturday would get beaten three days later. JJ's boys just could not find their mojo and results became erratic.

We looked to be finishing with a flourish, winning six out of our final nine and defeated Shrewsbury 2-0 at the Valley with excellent headed dead-ball goals by Stockley and Chuks. Then came the Ipswich result that put it all into perspective. Closing stats: Played 46, won 17, drew 8 and lost 21.

So, what happens next? Whoever is appointed – and many names are being bandied about including a return by Lee Bowyer – there will be a big change in playing personnel. We will want to keep several key players and at the top of the list will be midfielder George Dobson, surely the most consistent and popular player in the current squad. The fans certainly think so as they voted him Player of the Year with a massive 77 per cent of the vote. Dobson played 43 games and crowned his season with the winning goal against Rotherham, a screamer from outside the box which had the home crowd roaring with delight.

Striker Jayden Stockley, sidelined for several weeks with injury, was our top scorer with 13 goals. He will definitely be on the "keep" list along with Connor Washington, Cory Blackett-Taylor, Sean Clare, Ben Purrington, Adam Matthews and Albi Morgan. Hopefully we can keep hold of midfielder Jake Forster-Caskey. Out with serious knee problems for almost all the season, he returned for the last few games and immediately made an impact. It's the end of a seesaw season that has concluded dramatically and unsatisfactorily. Grongers fished that the new manager can rebuild a stronger, more consistent side ready for the challenge of championship football. Thomas Sandgaard has often repeated that his aim is European and premiership football. Let's hope he gives his manager the backing to achieve that goal! COYR's.



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# On the Grapevine ...

## Knit and Natter

If you can knit or would like to learn come along to St Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road – 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm on Tuesdays: 31 May, 28 June, 26 July, 27 Sept, 25 Oct, 29 Nov and 20 Dec. We specialise in charity knits but everyone is welcome to bring their own project. As well as knitting we provide great cake and excellent nattering.

## On the Move

Our movement classes run every Monday in St Richard's Hall. Our skilled instructor, Joanne, takes us through our paces with a mixture of stretches, routines and balances; all targeted at conditioning and improving mobility. The classes are booked in six weeks blocks and cost £36 which includes hall hire, instructor fees and refreshments.

A couple of spare places have just become available. Once these are gone, we will open our waiting list again. If you would like more information or to book a place email your contact details to [grapevine@charltonresidents.net](mailto:grapevine@charltonresidents.net) or ring 07939 090 676. Come on – get moving!

## Book group

Our last two meetings were held face to face, which was a real joy after so many zoom sessions. *Cloud Cuckoo Land* by Anthony Doerr, our March read, was fascinating. It's a complex and multi-narrative story weaving together five strands (and much research) ricocheting between Diogenes and interplanetary travel, taking in the fall of Constantinople along the way.

April's read was entirely different – Joan Didion's *Year of Magical Thinking*. In May we'll be reading and discussing *Small Pleasures* by Clare Chambers. At the moment we don't have space for new members – but as soon as we do, we'll include details here.

## Charlton Community Gardens

Thank you to all our friends and neighbours for your generous support of our annual plant sale. And we hope that some of you doing the Wildlife Watch spotted various bees and hoverflies in the Pollinator Friendly area of the Station Garden. Unfortunately, we continue to suffer from vandalism to the water butt at the station – should you see anyone tampering with the spout and handle, please tell the staff in the ticket office.

We look forward to seeing you at a Garden Party at the station (10.00 – 12.00 first Sunday and third Wednesday) or at the Community Orchard next to the Old Cottage Café (alternate Fridays at 9.30am). We welcome your feedback and suggestions for how to develop our community gardens.

## Walking Group

Our walk in March was inspired by one I attended run by

Tranquil City. It included places planned to offer pleasant and tranquil areas in which to live and work. We passed the meeting point of the Ravensbourne and Quaggy rivers; then the peaceful and beautiful Sivan Temple. In the well-loved Lewisham Park there is a very wide range of trees including an old ginkgo which is a male tree and a newly planted one which they will not know if it is male or female for about 30 years! We ended our green walk in Ladywell Fields.

In April we found green areas of Stoke Newington, starting at Abney Park Cemetery, open for the burial of all regardless of religion, which was originally an arboretum. Then to Clissold Park, which had been, in the late 18th century the estate of Jonathan Hoare, a Quaker banker, philanthropist and anti-slavery campaigner. For details of future walks contact Jill on [jillmo@btinternet.com](mailto:jillmo@btinternet.com).

## Singing Group

We have been meeting regularly throughout this year so far, though our numbers are still a little lower than they were before the lockdown. With the warmer weather approaching, it is easier for us to keep the room well ventilated, and we hope that some of our regular members will feel able to return again. Our remaining sessions before the summer are on 23 May, 6 and 20 June. If you are interested in joining the group, please contact Chris on 020 8858 7377.

## Instrumental Music Group ('SE7')

We have resumed regular sessions at Cattleya, in February, March and April. At the most recent session we were delighted to welcome the singer, Hope Augustus, to do a spot at the end of the evening. Our next performance at Cattleya will be on 22 May. 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.

## Playing Out

The fun continues at our fortnightly street play session in Sundorne Road. The road is closed to through traffic from 15:30 to 17:30 every other Wednesday so children can enjoy chalking the road, racing bikes and scooters and blowing bubbles!

Children of all ages are welcome, along with a responsible adult. We warmly welcome volunteers to help steward – guiding residents' vehicles in and out of the road to ensure safe access (and from September, carrying out light touch administration for the sessions).

Summer sessions are planned for: 1, 15 and 29 June; and 13 July. You are welcome to join the mailing list to be reminded when Playing Out is going ahead – just email [playingoutse7@gmail.com](mailto:playingoutse7@gmail.com) to be added to the list or if you can help.

## Return of Open Gardens – Sunday 21 August

We are pleased to announce the return of our enjoyable Open Gardens on Sunday, 21 August. This is an opportunity to visit local gardens and maybe share yours. Your garden does not have to be Chelsea Flower Show standard, just to be welcoming. If you would like to open your garden email Jane at [events@charltonresidents.net](mailto:events@charltonresidents.net). Reminder – this event is only open to paid up members of CCRA therefore don't forget to renew for 2022 or join now. See [www.charltonresidents.net](http://www.charltonresidents.net)

## New developments

Appeals against the refusal of permission for two developments between Eastmoor Street and Westmoor Street have been upheld by the Planning Inspectorate, so Aitch group and Optivo housing association schemes are likely to go ahead.

## Dates for your diary

### Friday 3 June

Jubilee Lunch in Charlton Park Look out for CCRA banner



### Saturday, 18 June

Gathering in Charlton Park: Focus on Fruit  
Meet at 11am in orchard near Old Cottage Coffee Shop

### Saturday 2 July

Community Day  
Clean Up Arts, Crafts and Jumble Trail etc Details on Page 3

### Sunday 21 August

Open Gardens Members event: Details later

### Saturday 10 September

Flower, Produce and Craft show Details tucked inside this Grapevine

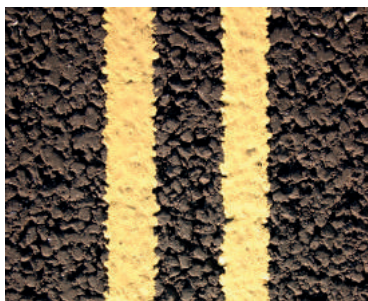
### Saturday 8 October

CCRA AGM and Quiz Night  
Details later



## THUMBS UP

To the new look outside Charlton Post Office. Trees and landscaping have improved it beyond measure.



## THUMBS DOWN!



To the selfish motorists who continue to ignore the double yellow lines and park outside the Post Office causing repeated traffic jams.

Contributions to this column welcome!

## GRAPEVINE

Comments, feedback, queries or material for the next edition of *Grapevine* should be emailed to [grapevine@charltonresidents.net](mailto:grapevine@charltonresidents.net) by Monday 27 June. 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](mailto: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](http://charltonresidents.net)), Twitter (@ccra\_se7) and Facebook ([facebook.com/centralcharlton](https://www.facebook.com/centralcharlton)) for details of CCRA events.

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**Charlton Central Residents Association**