



Jasbir Dhesi, Winner of the Best in Show, holding her prize, with Annie Galloway (left) and Anne Johnson

A TIMELESS EVENT WITH A VILLAGE FEEL...

Last year we rejoiced in the return of our annual Flower, Produce and Craft Show after a year of lockdowns, and getting together again as a community.

Having missed a year, last year's Show was its ninth, so this year's – to our delight – went ahead in September without a hitch as its tenth.

There were 123 entries ranging from home grown flowers, vegetables, bottled jams and chutneys, cakes and bread, to photographs, paintings, hand knitted and crafted items, with sections for children aged under eight and those aged eight to twelve.

Blackheath and Greenwich Women's Institute, has been providing judges for the F&P Show since it began eleven years ago. Their president, Anne Johnson who, along with

her team, was judging this year's entries and presenting the prizes, said: "As judges we are always very impressed with the variety and high standard of exhibits and, often, in awe of the amount of time and effort which has clearly been taken with some of them. The show is such a wonderful opportunity for the community to come together, socialise and have fun. There is something timeless about an event like yours with a "local village" feel and I was so pleased to be part of it."

One prize-winner was Claire Keatch, who now works for a Housing Trust, lives in Sundorne Road and is a regular at the CCRA's Knit and Natter group. She won first prize for a beautiful cream blanket, and another prize for a smaller

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STOP PRESS: Annual General Meeting (6.30pm) and Quiz Night (7.45pm)
St Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road, Saturday, 8 October 2022

Community policing

Correction from the Chair of CCRA

You may remember that the last issue of *Grapevine* contained an article reflecting CCRA's concerns about resourcing for our Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT), which is part of the Metropolitan Police. In common with a number of local partners, we do feel that there should be greater investment in community policing. However, there were unfortunately a couple of inaccuracies in the article. At the time of writing, we should have said that we had one full time police constable (PC) and one part-time support officer (PCSO), and that our full complement for the ward should be one



Sergeant, two PCs and one full-time PCSO. We apologise for this error. In the meantime, we look forward to continued engagement with our SNT, and we thank Sergeant Rob Jackaman and PCSO Syed Haque for all they do to keep Charlton safe.

Since the last *Grapevine* hit the mat, I can now update you on the current staffing levels in the Charlton Village and Riverside Ward. We currently have a full time Sergeant, Rob Jackaman, who was previously our PC. Rob knows the area very well having served for several years on the SNT. In addition, we welcome to the ward PC Lydia Caldwell and PCSO Michael Rabin. This leaves only one vacancy for a PC, which the Borough Command Unit are looking to rectify as soon as the new ward boundary structures are fully in place. We look forward to working with the new team and welcome Lydia and Michael to Central Charlton.

Business and pleasure ...

AGM, followed by quiz

On 8 October, CCRA's AGM will take place at St Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road, from 6.30 – 7.30pm (doors open at 6.10 pm for a prompt start).

Following the successful combining of business and pleasure last year, this year we're planning the same format. As soon as AGM business ends at 7.30, there will be a quick turn-around to allow the hall to be set up and teams to register for the quiz, which will start promptly at 7.45.

The AGM is your opportunity to meet neighbours, hear what CCRA has been doing throughout the year, and help to plan our future.

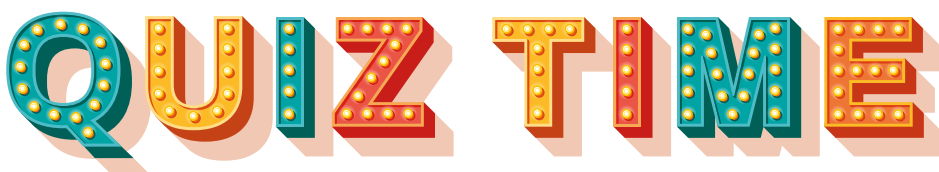
Members and officers of the management committee will be elected and any proposed changes considered (see agenda). You can come along to the AGM whether or not you're a member – though only members can stand for election or vote. You can however join on the night. And everyone can join the quiz.

If you'd like more information on what we do or you'd like to join our management committee, contact our

AGM AGENDA 2022

1. Welcome and introduction
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of AGM (9 October 2021)
4. Matters arising
5. Report from the Chair
6. Report from the Membership Secretary
7. Report from the Treasurer including statement of accounts and auditor's report
8. Any proposed changes to the constitution (which would require a two thirds majority)
9. Election of officers (Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary)
10. Election of Management Committee members
11. Resolutions
12. Any other business

chair, Jonathan Sanders, at chair@charltonresidents.net or phone 07875054597. And if you'd like to join CCRA, email membership@charltonresidents.net or call Jacqui on 07717742886.



Fun, festive and friendly quiz night

- Registration for Quiz Night begins at 7.30 – come along with your own team or join friends and neighbours to make up a team on the night
- Entry is £3 for members; £5 for non-members (or join CCRA on the night for £7)
- Prizes for the winning team
- A bar selling wines, beers and non-alcoholic drinks. Licensing laws do not permit you to bring your own alcoholic drinks. Nibbles also available.

GRAPEVINE

Comments, feedback, queries or material for the next edition of *Grapevine* should be emailed to grapevine@charltonresidents.net by w/b 31 October. 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 one 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) for details of CCRA events.

JOIN US FOR A CCRA BENEFIT CONCERT FOR UKRAINE

Saturday 12 November 7.30–10pm

Free entry – donations welcome

**At St Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road, SE7 7NR
featuring CCRA singers, SE7 musicians and other very special guests**

**If you would like to help or contribute to the event contact
Jacqui on 07717742886 or Chris on 020 8858 7377 • More details to follow**

Can you help?

Recently at one of SE7's appearances at Cattleya in Charlton Church Lane, a Ukrainian currently seeking safety in London declared that listening to the music was like 'a holiday for the heart'. CCRA is seeking to support peace in Ukraine – so that the normal life we take for granted can be resumed. We're planning a benefit concert to provide humanitarian aid for those affected. It will feature CCRA singers, local musicians SE7 and some very special guests, including local favourite jazz singer, Hope Augustus. Get the date in your diary – entry will be free but we're hoping everyone (even if you're not able to attend in person) will feel able to make a donation – large or small – every little helps. And please volunteer to help at the event to make it a great success and show solidarity to all those affected by the war in Ukraine.

A message from Olga ...

... displaced by the war in Ukraine

“It's terrible when an ordinary life with its plans for the weekend or vacation, with daily activities and meetings, suddenly ends. When you suddenly turn into someone who has neither your own home nor your own job – and most importantly, instead of the predicted future, all you have is complete uncertainty. From someone who was confident in oneself and your abilities, you have suddenly turned into someone who depends on other people's help, and this is very painful. The worst thing is that the war is still going on. No one knows when it will end, and all the time there is great anxiety for relatives and friends at home who are in danger every minute. This is a huge test, and it is very important that people support each other so much, it is priceless.”



Claire Keattch (second from right) and, right, her winning blanket



A timeless event with a village feel ...

from front page

blanket, both not only knitted by her but with her own unique design.

She says: “My mother taught me to knit when I was about four, just using scraps of yarn and big wooden needles and one stitch. I'd knit little blankets for my dolls and things like that, till I was about eleven, when I was ill and in hospital for a year and I knitted a pair of mittens, which was the first time I'd ever read a pattern.”

She didn't knit for a while after recovering then began again about four years ago, joined Knit and Natter and started knitting blankets for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and a children's hospice, for which she provides her own wool.

She says she designs each blanket and there's no duplicate, adding: “I enjoy doing it and working out what design I'm going to put on the blanket. I find in the evening I can't sit and watch the TV unless I'm knitting, and I knit most evenings.”

Jasbir Dhesi, well-known and highly regarded CCRA member, says she wasn't thinking of entering anything for F&P

until it was suggested to her that she could enter pakoras. Little did she know that would lead to the Len Weir Perpetual Trophy for 'Best in Show'.

She says: “Now I'm really glad I did, and so happy at my win. I only knew I'd won first place after I was told when I went to get a drink and was happy with this. Then when they were announced as 'Best in Show,' I was so chuffed!”

She adds: “When the WI judge presented the prize, she said two of the judges went back to have more because they liked the taste so much. She also said they want the recipe, when it's been written down, as they were told that my cooking is done without recipes and through learning from family cooking.

“My pakoras were simple, made with potato, onion and spinach with spices, chilli and salt, they are a family favourite. They went down a treat at the show as there weren't any left for anyone to try after they'd been announced Best in Show.”

But she has promised to join forces with CCRA Committee member Brenda Taggart to write a recipe. So hopefully we can sample our own version of the Best in Show. Full list of winners on website.

Future of Riverside on hold

As we reported in the last *Grapevine*, development on the Charlton Riverside seems to have come to a halt for the time being.

The Department for Education is not now proceeding with the plan for a new primary school near the bottom of Anchor and Hope Lane. This poses a problem for building what has been called the east-west route for buses intended to go through from Anchor and Hope Lane to Warspite Road, which could leave part of the Hyde site at the end of a

long cul-de-sac.

We also understand that the Greater London Authority (GLA) have unresolved concerns about the proximity of the Tarmac site and some of the Hyde development, on which we reported in March.

Flooding has long been an issue next to the Thames

and the Charlton section between the Barrier and the Yacht Club is now the only major section of the long Greenwich riverbank where the flood wall has not been improved in the last 50 years.

Responsibility for this is with the riparian owners, those who own the land

immediately next to the river and the costs of doing so grow and grow. The overall economic situation is increasing the potential risk of investing in what was always a difficult site with widespread ownership, some of which is currently changing hands.

If the rumours, that some sites, once earmarked for residential, may be developed for modern industrial uses, prove to be accurate, a whole rethink about the masterplan could be needed.



Local housing targets to go?

At the moment Greenwich is not meeting its housing target of 2,800 new homes each year, something difficult to believe if you walk the length of the riverside from Greenwich to Thamesmead.

This is a crucial figure however in determining planning applications. If a local refusal to grant permission for a major housing development is taken to appeal by the applicant, failing to meet that target is very likely to lead to the inspector finding against the local authority.

That was certainly the case at the inquiry into the refusal of the planning committee to agree two housing applications in Eastmoor Street early this year. Not meeting that target trumped the Charlton Masterplan.

At a campaign meeting in Wembley, our new Prime Minister, Liz Truss, commented on her experience when she was a councillor in Greenwich between 2006 and 2010. As reported in the *London Evening Standard* she said: "You think you're making great decisions,

but you get overruled by the top-down housing targets or by the planning inspectorate in Bristol. And what I would do is abolish those targets in legislation."

At her first Prime Minister's question time, Liz Truss reiterated her reported view about ending those targets and strengthening local decision making.

We shall see; government has become increasingly centralised in Britain and there will be strong lobbying from house builders who will argue that it will lead to fewer houses being built.

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*



New plans for White Swan

There is a new planning application (22/2746/F) relating to the White Swan pub in Charlton Village. Approval is being sought to convert the first floor into two two-bedroom flats with some minor changes to the staircases including access to the cellar. No significant changes to the exterior of the building are suggested. Many local people are concerned to secure the future of the pub which has existed in the village since 1889, and their view is that refusing this proposal leaves a better chance of achieving that objective.

THERE ARE TWO ENERGY CRISES

We must all be pleased that the cost of gas and electricity bills will not reach the quite scary figures that were being predicted for next January and beyond. The new price cap announced by the government for the next two years gives households, businesses and public sector organisations a degree of certainty for the immediate future.

But the new cap means average bills of double the start of the year, which is still frightening and will push many into poverty. We will all have to pay the real cost in extra charges later on, because the government has chosen not to impose a windfall tax on huge profits.

Although one crisis has been partially addressed, energy is at the centre of the other major crises confronting us: the worldwide threat from climate change, stemming in particular from the use of fossil fuels. You would have thought that if there was a way of tackling both these crises at the same time governments would be energetically pursuing them. Unfortunately, that's not where we are now going.

We have made some progress in developing renewable sources of energy. On sunny, windy days there are occasions when more than half our power needs are met from wind turbines

and solar panels. By a big margin, the cost of renewables is now lower than other sources. They can be brought on stream very much faster than opening new sources from fossil fuels.

It should be a no-brainer that this is the way to go. But the power and influence of the big worldwide energy companies is so pervasive and long standing they have managed to slow down the transition, and the new government is seeking to reverse that progress by encouraging new access to fossil fuel sources, while suggesting it can maintain the target of net zero emissions by 2050.

The Prime Minister has talked of issuing 100 new licences for the extraction of oil and gas from the North Sea.

Even worse is the decision to end the moratorium on shale gas. Some of those huge multinational companies would be happy to invest but only on condition they could get a good return.

It could take a decade or more to bring shale gas on stream and twice that for gas or oil from new wells at sea. Would those same multinationals be happy to cease operation in 2050? Of course not. They will demand a date much later before they make any initial



investment. This amounts to deliberate breach of the pledge made less than a year ago at the Cop 26 conference in Glasgow.

What we should be asking for is rapid government investment in renewables, including on-shore wind farms, which the government banned in 2015, subsidies for homes, schools, hospitals, small businesses etc to introduce solar power, and new sources of renewable energy like tidal power.

We should be encouraging homes and businesses to save energy, go for major insulation in buildings, and they will certainly need help to replace gas or oil central heating with heat pumps).

FRACKING

Fracking is creating fractures in rocks to release gas, using very high-pressure injections to widen existing cracks.

The only place in England where it has been progressed is in Lancashire and, after significant earthquake tremors at the site, the

government imposed a moratorium on fracking in November 2019.

The new prime minister, Liz Truss, announcing the lifting of that moratorium, suggested shale gas could be brought on stream within six months.

But former energy

minister Greg Hands told parliament last March, "It would take years of exploration and development before commercial quantities of shale gas could be produced".

And Kwasi Kwarteng, now Chancellor, wrote, in the *Mail on Sunday*, "Even

if we lifted the moratorium tomorrow, it would take up to a decade to extract sufficient volume".

Apart from Ukraine, there is almost no fracking going on in Europe; in France and Germany, which have large deposits, it is effectively banned — as it is in Scotland!

How we can help wildlife in Charlton

It was wonderful to see many Charlton residents putting bowls of water for local wildlife in their front gardens during the recent heatwave. Time will tell how we are all going to fare in a changing climate but we can act now to help wildlife in our area

Start with assessing which wildlife visitors you have in your garden, or which visit your balcony, and if there are others you would like to attract. Then consider how you could change these to support wildlife, for instance providing access to clean water, nest boxes, deadwood piles, creating a butterfly garden, or planting a hedge.

Many thanks to everyone who took part in our mini CCRA Wildlife Watch in Spring, when we asked residents to record which wildlife visited their garden or balcony.

Below is a summary of its results, showing the wildlife seen, along with general guidance about supporting wildlife and details of other useful organisations for more advice. It is not a complete guide, just a starting point to help support the wildlife that shares the space we live in.

STEP 1. Identifying which animals are visiting your garden and/or which others you would like to attract. Planning to make changes is also important.

First, spend some time identifying which wildlife is visiting or living in your garden and when they come. There are many wildlife spotters sheets available online at wildlifewatch.org.uk activities

or alternatively buy *Collins Book of British Wildlife*, for example, to help with this task.

Assess your garden, or balcony, and work out which parts have the right conditions to grow plants to attract insects or birds for example. Or which would support habitats. Could you create a mini meadow, for example, or a small pond. Where could you put bird feeders, nest boxes or a bug hotel?

It is important to plan to avoid wasting money by providing unsuitable habitats, plants, bird feeders or food.

Helpful overall guides:

bit.ly/rspb-gardening

bit.ly/rspb-activities

STEP 2. Supporting wildlife: As discussed, you do not need to feed wildlife. Providing water, shelter, or a place for them to breed is also an option.

Please bear in mind when planning, that wildlife needs to feel safe in your garden, eg if you have cats or dogs in the back garden, perhaps consider using a front garden.

Different species require different habitats and food, so do some research before changing your space or purchasing items which wildlife would not use. You do not need to spend lots of money you could for example:

Create Habitats

- Make piles of logs or rocks for insects or frogs to inhabit.

- Build Bug Hotels. Solitary Bees like warm south facing walls with sunlight or light shade while other insects such as Woodlice and possibly Spiders or Ladybirds prefer cool and damp spaces. The hotel can be used for



hibernation and as a breeding burrow. There are many examples of DIY Bug Hotels online.

- Plant suitable plants, ones that cover all seasons of the year or provide habitats or attract insects for birds to feed on (See Step 3). Walls covered in ivy, for example are good for insects, birds or solitary bees.

- Water You could provide water to drink or bathe simply by putting a wide shallow dish in an open space in your garden, with a couple of large stones or a rock in middle as a perch for birds. Wash regularly to keep bowl free from harmful pathogens. Or create a small pond.

- Nest Boxes Birds nest in different ways so do some research before buying: some prefer a tight entrance (Sparrows), others an open fronted one (Robins or Blackbirds). Make sure any nest box is suitably placed. You could put hideaways in ivy or hedges for birds to take cover in or rest. The RSPB have an extensive range and also offer designs to make your own.

Feeding wildlife

There are different opinions about feeding wildlife, particularly Foxes, but even birds.

Providing supplemental food to

FINDINGS FROM WILDLIFE WATCH IN OUR AREA

Birds visiting	Butterflies visiting	Insects visiting	Mammals visiting	Also living in gardens
Robin, Blue Tit, Great Tit, Coal Tit, House Sparrow, Goldfinch, Heron, Feral Pigeon, Wood Pigeon, Goldcrest, Wren, Magpie, Parakeet, Dunnock, Crow, Seagull, Goose (flying over though!)	Small White, Tortoiseshell, Orange Tip, Ringlet, Cabbage White	Buff Tailed Bumblebee, Bumble Bee (species not identified), Hoverfly, Wasp, Fly, Mosquito, Ladybird	Foxes and Grey Squirrels (in some cases, living in gardens)	Snails, Slugs, Earth Worms, Woodlice, Spiders and Newts in ponds along with aquatic insects <i>Of course boundaries do not exist for some of these species and they wander</i>



support a wildlife's natural diet is one option or offering plants that attract insects for birds to feed on is another.

If you want to offer food to birds, they need energy stores to keep warm in winter, so suet balls are useful. Find a sheltered spot in the garden to keep them dry. Or you could offer peanuts in a mesh feeder or crushed in a container type feeder.

Kibbled peanuts, Nyger seeds, meal worms, or black sunflower seeds or some of the mixed or premium mixes are good, but consider which birdfeeder you should use for which food.

The RSPB and Vine House (linked at end) offer advice here. Clean bird feeders regularly to help prevent spreading disease in birds.

You could also offer household scraps for birds such as soaked currants, raisins, sultanas, grated cheese. It is important to keep fruit off ground if you have cats or dogs as these could harm them.

Over-ripe bananas, or even banana skins are good for butterflies, particularly in the autumn when they need more energy. Mash the banana inside the skins then make slits in various places. Put these or banana skins in small trees, hedges away or ledges away from foxes.

Foxes – as discussed, feeding Foxes is controversial. The advice is either not to feed or to feed irregularly. The

food offered should be appropriate ie, similar to their natural diet: berries, fruit, cooked or raw meat or dog food.

Keep the amount small so they keep foraging for food, as is their natural behaviour.

Do ensure you remove uneaten food regularly and clean used bowls.

If you want to stop feeding your garden wildlife, do it gradually rather than suddenly remove support.

■ *For more information:*
bit.ly/rspb-activities

STEP 3. Planting to feed bees, butterflies or birds all year round – Some examples:

Spring: Primrose, Garlic Mustard, Sweet Rocket, Aubretia, Honesty, Berberis, Dandelions. Early plants for bees to get energy are key at this time of year
Summer: Buddleia, Honeysuckle, Lavender, Salvia, Lobelia, Red Valerian, Hebe, Cat Mint, Heliotrope, Thyme, heads of Sunflowers and Dogwood which feeds Robins

for example in late August - early September. Honeysuckle or Stocks (to attract insects for birds)

Autumn/Winter: Ivy, Hyssop, Ice Plant, Scabious, Michaelmas Daisy, Teasel, Burdock, Holly (need male and female to produce berries), Hawthorn (feeds birds, caterpillars and moths), Rowan and Cotoneaster.



Plants for butterflies/caterpillars.

First, see which butterflies are visiting your garden: they are quite particular in their needs for food and laying their eggs. Then research which plants or trees to plant: they need food when coming out of hibernation in Spring, food for energy in autumn and leaves in particular plants to lay their eggs on.

Sources: Wildlife Trust, RSPB, London Wildlife Trust, Butterfly Conservation Organisation.

Setting up a CCRA Greening and Environmental Group?

CCRA would love to have an active Greening and Environmental Group that could take this work forward. If you are interested in getting involved then contact the Chair, Jonathan Sanders, email: chair@charltonresidents.net or call 07875054597.

Helping wildlife is rewarding and does not need to be just about providing food. Join organisations such as Wildlife Trusts, London Wildlife Trust etc, for general support and advice. There is much to enjoy with so much wonderful nature on our doorsteps.

■ For more information see our website: www.charltonresidents.net



CCRA member David Gayther with a friendly parakeet



Michael John
Partner at Conran Charlton

Minor Upgrades to Boost Your Home's Appeal on the Market

In a perfect world, we could completely renovate our homes on a shoestring budget to maximise their resale potential. While that is an unrealistic expectation, it is still possible to make the most of your home's value through simple changes.

Refresh interiors with new paint or pretty wall art

A new coat of paint on your walls not only freshens things up but it can give your rooms and decor an upgrade to a more contemporary colour. The best bit is that over a single weekend you can transform your interiors with the right art materials or stick to the brushes, rollers and a few tins of paint.

Showcase your home's true potential

Offering more opportunities to create new zones or adapt existing ones in your home helps viewers to form a better picture of how practical it can be. An empty home or one that is sparsely decorated doesn't generate as strong of an emotional connection, which is crucial in securing an offer.

Perk up your kitchen and bathroom

Kitchens and bathrooms are commonly seen as the most important rooms for potential buyers, so any improvements you can make in these areas will go far. With quartz the most popular material and lighter colours in vogue for countertops, consider upgrading yours to increase your kitchen's impact on potential buyers. Large showers are a continued trend in bathroom design and by installing a modern piece of bathroom furniture your property will appeal to more buyers.

Landscape and clean your walkways

The power of curb appeal can impact your house price, with as many as 93% of people making a judgement on a home from the outside alone. Use a power washer to tackle walkways making the exterior look fresher. The garden is a key selling point for many homebuyers too; consider some mild landscaping to remove weeds, tidy up the grass and zone your garden.

Invest in new appliances

Modern appliances are more energy-efficient than ever, and given the increased cost of living, any energy upgrades you can offer potential buyers will help add value. For just a few hundred pounds per item, you can systematically upgrade your kitchen's white goods, from the dishwasher to a washing machine.

Update your carpets

If your carpet is worn, stained or looking worse for wear, updating it to a new one will be positively received by any potential buyer. Think about your carpet objectively. Would you be put off by it if you were buying your home? If the answer is yes, or even a maybe, the chances are any would-be buyer will feel the same.

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conran
a refreshing change



LANSDOWNE LANE, CHARLTON
OFFERS OVER £250,000

A recently renovated, warm and sunny apartment that is chain-free and in a wonderfully quiet conservation area. EPC: C



WOOLWICH ROAD, CHARLTON
ASKING PRICE £525,000

Set within a boutique development with a spectacular roof terrace, this two bedroom apartment is ready to move in to with a large balcony, quality wood flooring and granite worktops. EPC: B



SWALLOWFIELD ROAD, CHARLTON
OFFERS OVER £385,000

With a huge living-dining room, two spacious bedrooms and a tree-lined location, this beautifully presented apartment is certainly one to view. EPC: E



CHARLTON CHURCH LANE, CHARLTON
OFFERS OVER £299,950

A lovely homely feel will welcome you into this bright and spacious apartment. With a super balcony and ideally located near Charlton Station, this is a real gem! EPC: C



NADINE STREET, CHARLTON OFFERS OVER £700,000

A spacious four bedroom, three bathroom house located in the peaceful and desirable Nadine Street. This lovely house boasts off-street parking for one car, an unusual find in this area.

Inside there is a spacious hallway with decorative corbels, a large living room with bay windows, and a dining room with French doors to the side return. To the rear is a fitted kitchen-diner with granite worktops and a decked rear garden.

The first floor has three double bedrooms, one with an en-suite, and a quality family bathroom. The master suite is located on the top floor and is a large bedroom with an en-suite shower room and has views over gardens and rooftops.

This fantastic home is offered chain free, and viewing is highly recommended.

EPC: D



How happy is my valley?

... A view from the terraces

Dare I mention mid-table obscurity? It has an all too familiar feel and already suggests promotion is going to be more of a dream than a reality this season.

But that's where we are again after eight outings. Mutterings on social media hint at owner Thomas Sandgaard being a tad too parsimonious when it comes to forking out for new players.

Ironically, he has spent lavishly on improving facilities at Sparrow's Lane, fleshing out key backroom positions at the Valley and upgrading Charlton Women's team. The doubters suggest it might have been better to spend the money on the squad first, get promotion and then develop the club. Only time will tell.

In fairness to new manager Ben Garner, the first eight games were tough and we didn't do too badly. We've won two, drawn four and lost two, scoring 11 goals in the process. But doubters are beginning to question Garner's stewardship after a series of lacklustre performances.

He brought in seven new players over the summer and this month added an eighth in the shape of former academy player Terell Thomas, a centre back joining on a year's contract. Worryingly he didn't add to the forward line and that leaves us thin up front if any of the principal strikers get injured.

As it is the ever injury prone Chuks Aneke is – guess what – injured and has barely kicked a ball in anger this season.

And just to add to the concerns, captain and striker Jayden Stockley is on a goal drought. He's only scored once – from a penalty – and needs to rediscover his form soon. Some say his style doesn't gel with the new approach of Garner.

At the Valley against Forest Green Rovers on 13 September exciting young talent Miles Leaburn was given the nod over Stockley. He's already part of the squad and showing real promise. Fans remember his dad Carl playing at the Valley for 11 years scoring 66 goals and are already chanting the familiar "Leaburn, Leaburn" when the young forward hits the back of the net which he has done twice now.

When Garner took over the reins he promised fast passing, high pressing, attacking football and we began the season with a determination that had the fans on the edge of their seats. But lately the results have been disappointing and the style of football has not reflected that early promise.

The Tuesday night match at home against Forest Green Rovers said it all.

Corey Blackett Taylor, back from injury lit up the stadium with his exciting runs and he scored an excellent opening goal in the ninth minute.

But it was downhill from there. Joe Wollacott, our new – and usually reliable stopper – fumbled the ball and FGR were there to tap in. Thereafter we struggled to find cohesion and 1-1 was a fair if disappointing result. To add to our woes, Ryan Innis returned from injury – and got sent off in the dying seconds for a second yellow card offence. That's his third red. Given his propensity for injury he is an expensive player to have sitting on the sidelines for much of his Charlton career.

After that match Garner talked of needing better focus and a more ruthless approach. So now we have dropped to 14th and into the bottom half of the table.

It's going to be a long season – Crongers fished for a revival. COYR's.



St RICHARD'S CHURCH CENTRE

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

HALL AND MEETING ROOMS FOR HIRE

one-to-one sessions
group activities • classes
exhibitions • children's parties

COMPETITIVE RATES
ONE-OFF or REGULAR BOOKINGS

info@charlton.church
www.charlton.church

CHARLTON WOMEN have made a decent start to their Barclay's Women's Championship season under head coach Karen Hills. Their first outing was to newly promoted Southampton where, watched by a crowd of 2,400 fans, they chalked up a 3-2 win.

The next match was very much a local derby with Charlton playing at home against London City Lionesses whose home base is in Dartford. The Lionesses broke away from Millwall and formed an independent club in 2019 so a tough clash was always on the cards.

Charlton were quickly 2-0 down and fought back to level pegging but the Lionesses pressed on and ran out 3-4 winners in a thrilling game.

On the Grapevine ...

Knit and natter

If you didn't want to be surrounded by wool during the hot summer, now is the time to pick up the needles again. With winter coming on why not snuggle up with some knitting. The Knit & Natter group meet in Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road – 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm on Tuesdays: 27 September, 25 October; 29 November and 20 December. Everyone is welcome even if you just want to come along for the natter. We specialise in charity knits but please come along with your own project. Good cake guaranteed. We look forward to seeing you.

Playing out

PLAYING OUT IS BACK! Playing out is back on Sundorne Road. Come and join us with the road closed to through traffic from 3.30pm to enjoy playing outside, chalking the road, racing bikes and scooters and blowing bubbles! Forthcoming dates are 28 September; 12 and 26 October; 9 and 23 November. Children of all ages are welcome, along with a responsible adult and we warmly welcome volunteers to help steward the sessions. Get in touch with playingoutse7@gmail.com to join the mailing list and find out more!

Singing Group

After a break over the summer, we started up again on 5 September and our regular fortnightly sessions will continue until December. In November we will be taking part in the CCRA benefit concert for Ukraine and some of our time between now and then will be focussed on preparing songs for this. In December we will perform at the Christmas Social and organise our annual carol singing evenings. Dates for the rest of this year are: 19 September; 3, 17, 31 October; 14, 28 November; 12 Dec. If you are interested in joining us please contact Chris on 020 8858 7377 – or just come along to one of our sessions.

Instrumental Music Group ('SE7')

We resume our regular sessions at Cattleya on 25 September, playing our usual mix of music from around the world as well as some jazz, folk and popular standards. We will be continuing these sessions approximately once a month (check the CCRA website for details), and we will also perform at the CCRA benefit concert for Ukraine in November. 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

What a wonderful summer we've had this year in which to enjoy the outdoor.

While some people have suffered with the heat, seeing the sun shine most days lifts the spirits. The walking group certainly made the most of it with each walk having sun and shade as part of each of its plan.

July saw us at St Albans where the huge Verulamium Park and the Abbey Orchard provided the sunny walks whilst the magnificent Cathedral provided a cool place to sit and listen to a choir rehearsal with Gareth Malone. The amazing City Museum, once the Town Hall and Court, provided great fun with the old cells transformed into toilets and the entrance into the tearoom via the Dock.

Fortunately the hottest part of the August walk was at the start following a stream as we enjoyed the ancient Epping Forest. A pub lunch before walking back to the station through the cool of the forest.

En route we looked out for the Ambresbury Banks – the remains of an Iron Age hill fort and were pleased there was at least one observant walker with us to spot them.

If you are interested in receiving information about future walks please request it from Jill at jillmo@btinternet.com the next walk will be on Sunday, 9 October, meeting at Charlton Station at 10.00am

Book group

July and September's reads contrast sharply. The former, *The Night Watchman*, focuses on the rights of Native

Americans in 1950s North Dakota. Legislation labelled as an emancipation bill in fact is a betrayal, undermining their cultural identity, lands and language. Although the book is fiction, the author, Louise Erdrich states that it draws extensively on the life of her grandfather. The group found the book engaging and informative.

At the time of writing, the group has not met to discuss Ruth Ozeki's *Book of Form and Emptiness*. Its structure is unusual, the narrator's voice being a book. The central character is a 13 year-old boy who finds refuge in a public library. Jazz, climate change and unnecessary consumption are key themes.

In October we plan to read another winner of the Women's Prize for Fiction, *Piranesi* by Susanna Clarke.

We are not currently able to accept new members but for more details contact Linda on 020 8858 7377.



Charlton Community Gardens

The community garden is a garden by the community for the community. As you see vegetables ready for picking, please help yourself. And take some of the herbs to add to your dinner. We tend to plant the things that we see people using so this winter expect to find kale and Swiss Chard available for the pot. In the meantime help yourself to the perennial kale in the bed nearest the bus stop and we hope you have enjoyed ripe tomatoes, beans and courgettes.

Dates for your diary

Saturday 8 October
CCRA AGM and Quiz Night
St Richard's Hall
Swallowfield Road
(See page 2 for full details)

Saturday 12 November
CCRA Ukraine Benefit Night
7.30 – 10.00 pm
St Richard's Hall
Swallowfield Road
(See page 3)

Saturday 10 December
CCRA Christmas Fayre
St Richard's Hall
Swallowfield Road
Time and further details to be confirmed



Dave Aldridge

Sadly we announce the death of Dave Aldridge on 30 August. He and his faithful dog, Ben, were popular characters in Delafield Road always ready with a cheerful smile and chat at his gate. Dave had been ill for some time and passed away in the Greenwich & Bexley Hospice.

Have parking plans been parked?

As reported in the last *Grapevine*, there has yet to be any published results from the consultation on the Charlton Parking zone.

Visitors' vouchers are now only virtually available. That means that you have to book a full- or half-day time slot for your visitors online. Once you have an account you can book up to 200 vouchers per year.

People who are unable to access online services can apply for paper vouchers in person or by writing to Parking Services at the Woolwich Centre (SE18 6HQ). There are apparently a limited number of these available for each CPZ and it is currently unclear what happens when they run out. Maybe that decision has also been parked!

Consultation on the borough's transport strategy ends on 25 September and a report is promised on its findings on 31 December 2022.



THUMBS UP



... to the generous donors to Greenwich Foodbank and all those who work to support it

THUMBS DOWN!



... to the state of this country that so many people are struggling to buy the food they need to survive

Greenwich Foodbank needs help to continue helping

Jamie Ginns, CEO of Greenwich Foodbank recently wrote to CCRA asking for our support. He states: "As I am sure you are all aware we face an incredibly difficult autumn and winter with seemingly ever rising need for Greenwich Foodbank. We gave out our 80,000th meal in 2022 this month. This puts us on track to have distributed 120 to 130 thousand meals by Christmas. This, when compared with last year's total of 91,602 meals, is worrying."

Greenwich Foodbank needs your help – to help families in crisis.

Over many years, CCRA has made several donations – both cash and foodstuffs – to the Greenwich Foodbank and we know that everything donated is put to immediate and urgent use. If you are able and would

like to donate money, full details for doing this can be found on the website greenwich.foodbank.org.uk/give-help.

Food donations can be made at Charlton House; the large Sainsbury's and Asda on Bugsby's Way. The foodbank is currently well-stocked with baked beans and pasta but urgently needs:

- Fruit juice (long life, 1 litre cartons)
- Instant potato
- Squash (in bottles)

- Sugar (1kg)
- Tinned meat or fish
- Tinned potatoes and carrots

Stocks are low on UHT 1 litre containers of cows' milk and cooking oil; tins or jars of baby food, breakfast cereal; snacks or treats such as biscuits, cereal bars, chocolate bars and crisps. Tea bags (packs of 40), instant coffee and hot chocolate are also needed as are toilet rolls, nappies (sizes 5&6) shampoo, conditioner and toothpaste. A full list of items currently low on stock can be found on the foodbank website.

If you're short of money at the moment you may have a stash of carrier bags – the foodbank would welcome strong, clean carrier bags which could also be left at the collection points mentioned above. Please help in whatever way



you can.

If you are able to donate money either with a one-off payment or a regular donation, you can do a straight-forward money transfer:

Bank: Barclays

Account: Greenwich Foodbank Ltd

Account Number: 73374432

Sort Code: 20-49-81

It doesn't matter how big or small your donation it all helps to provide meals for vulnerable families.

Christmas is coming ...

It's never too soon to plan ahead for the CCRA 2022

Christmas Fayre. This festive feast will take place in St Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road on Saturday 10 December. As in previous years this will be the

perfect opportunity to pick up that special gift for a loved

one or win the coveted Christmas Hamper. More details to come but if you would like to get to the head of the queue for booking a stall contact Jacqui on 07717 742 886 for further details. Watch this space for more information and put the date into your diary right now.

