

CHARLTON'S TAKE ON MAN UNITED ...



Nine thousand Happy Valley fans headed north to Old Trafford in January to watch Charlton take on the might of Manchester United in the quarter finals of the Carabao Cup. They went by car, coach and train and descended on United's massive stadium to watch a thrilling match in which Charlton more than matched their Premiership rivals for much of the game.

An early goal put the home side ahead but for the next 70 minutes our League One side battled it out against a team of international stars. As the minutes ticked away home fans, disappointed by their team's inability to wear down the stubborn opposition, began leaving the stadium in droves – accompanied by the booming chant from Charlton fans: "Is there a fire drill?"

In the end Man U manager Eric ten Hag had to call up England's World Cup star, Marcus Rashford to make the breakthrough. The in-form striker turned on the style and banged in two quick goals and it was all over.

A crowd of 77,000 watched the game which put a much-needed £600,000 in the Charlton coffers.

■ See page 10 for full report

Why is this sticker on my bin?

For too long, I thought you could put used (or unused) tissues in the blue bin, along with the newspapers. Then I discovered they **must** go in the black, unrecyclable bin, which opened my eyes to the dangers of not knowing the appropriate place to leave used items, thereby sabotaging the whole idea of effective recycling and relieving the damage to the planet. It really is worthwhile taking time to check it out!

Neighbours stopped me in the street and said: "I've separated out my garden and kitchen waste and put them in the green top bin but I've got a sticker on my bin, saying 'Oops,

wrong thing, wrong bin'. What's going on?" or "I've put all my newspapers and cardboard boxes, bottles and jars in my blue top bin but I've got a sticker on my bin. Why?"

In both cases the answer turned out to be plastic bags. Plastic bags cannot go into blue or green bins.

You can wrap food and garden waste in newspaper or special green bags with a seedling design before putting it into the green bin. All recyclable items must be placed loose in the blue bin.

Plastic bags are classified as 'soft plastics'; and as such **must** either go in your black bin or in the special collection points to be found at larger supermarkets. In our last issue, an

attempt to clarify what are confusing rules, unfortunately and inadvertently, made things even more confusing so here is a correction and humble apology:

The term 'soft plastics' includes carrier bags, clean cling film, and bubble wrap. They should not be placed in your blue bin. Items carrying this logo can be recycled at some local supermarkets but advice from RBG is that Asda, Sainsbury's and the Co-op (larger branches only) will accept plastic bags, clean cling film etc, at designated collection points.

Greenwich adds that Tesco and Aldi also accept a wider range of items such as crisp bags, pet food pouches, biscuit and sweet wrappers. To save space in your black bin, check out what's available at your local supermarket. None of these items should go in your blue top bin and if you're unable to get them to one of the stores listed above they must go in your black bin.



STOP PRESS: Join CCRA today or renew for 2023 using the Membership Form inside

TICK ... TOCK...

The countdown to our 2023 CCRA Annual Flower, Produce and Craft Show on Saturday 9th September has begun

If you have never entered the Show before, why not do so this year? For example the 'Growing Classes' for 2023 will include favourites such as best 'Single Rose, Dahlia, or Hydrangea, or 'Vase of your Garden Flowers'. Some wonderful varieties of flowers to choose from.

For those who got the bug for growing vegetables during lockdown, why not enter 'Tomatoes, Courgettes, Beans (Runner or French), Apples or Grapes' this year? For those who have not entered before, why not grow some 'Radishes, Lettuces or Any Soft Fruits' to enter? We even have classes for the 'Heaviest Single Vegetable' and 'Strangest-Looking Vegetable'.

For those with plants in pots (outdoor and indoor) we are looking for any 'Non-Flowering or Flowering



Plants' (max pot size 10"/25cm). Do you have a pot of beautiful 'Begonias, some bursting 'Bizzie Lizzies', or a perfect pot of 'Petunias'? There are also classes for indoor plants such as Cacti, Succulents, or even a much-loved Spider Plant. It is their time to shine at the Show, don't keep them hidden!

For those who like to arrange flowers, this year we are looking for gorgeous displays of 'Flowers in a Wine Glass', or maybe an amazing arrangement of '3 Different Flowers', or some 'Floating Flower Heads' in water. A superb creative category to enter and to use with any flowers in your

garden or window box, or you can use shop-bought flowers in these classes.

So much choice! We would dearly love to see lots of colourful, creative and vibrant entries in our growing categories this year. Help us make the hall look wonderful. Start thinking now about what you could enter.

See charltonresidents.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Hints-and-tips-2022.pdf In this guide you will find key info about how to present entries and what judges are looking for. If you would like to chat about any of the classes or the Show contact: Brenda: 07939090676 or Jacqui: 07717742996.

Membership Matters

Indeed, it does! We would like to thank everyone who renewed or joined CCRA in 2022. Your support is greatly appreciated as was your help at events.

Most recently, we had a very successful Christmas Fayre, a lovely warm afternoon made wonderful by your company and all the beautiful stalls.

Thank you for the many generous donations for the raffle and hamper, and special thanks to those who contributed or helped on the day.

We would also like to thank everyone who contributed to our Concert for Ukraine event and donated

funds. It was a wonderful community event and raised a total of £1,421 for the Disaster Emergency Committee (DEC) Ukraine.

Our Carol Singing also raised £775 from our kind-hearted community, leading to donations to Greenwich Mencap of £100 and Greenwich Foodbank of £675 – including a late donation of £100 by a generous resident.

Renew

We hope you will renew for 2023. Our membership year runs from January to December each year and we ask that members renew in January or February so we

have an idea of our funds for the rest of the year.

Many thanks to all who have paid already by Direct Debit or Standing Order for 2023. If you would like to renew online go to: bit.ly/CCRA-renew23

Want to join CCRA?

Use the CCRA Membership Form included with this Charlton Grapevine and return it as shown, or you can go online and join at: bit.ly/CCRA-join23

'Pay what you can' category for 2023

The Management Committee has discussed the impact of the cost-of-living crisis for

many in our community. For this year we are pleased to offer a 'Pay what you can' payment option for those renewing, or would like to join us, who are finding the cost of living rises very challenging.

We hope those with the broader shoulders might be able to add a small donation to their membership payment this year to support this initiative.

If you would like to discuss membership or get a Membership Form, contact our Membership Secretary, Jacqui Mitchell: membership@charltonresidents.net Mobile: 07717 742886.

CAN YOU HELP US? We are looking for a wonderful local resident who would like to give something back to the community and who would be interested in working with Jacqui with a view to taking over as Membership Secretary for 2023/24. It is a key role for CCRA. For a discussion of what is involved call Jacqui on the number above.



Charlton House closed until April for key repairs

Historic Charlton House, beset by crippling heating bills, has closed its public rooms until 1 April.

The decision was taken initially as a response to soaring heating costs, but it will give operators Greenwich Heritage much needed time to assess how the Jacobean Manor is kept warm in the future.

Out-going chief executive of Greenwich Heritage, Tracy Stringfellow, explained: "I am proud of how our team has come together to ensure this time is not wasted. These are challenging times

for homes of all sizes across the country so it was absolutely essential to vary our hours this winter."

The good news is that the library and the toy library will both remain open during this time and will continue to operate normal hours. The house will offer limited access to community groups, churches and booked events. The walled gardens will also be open as usual from 10 am until 4pm.

The winter break will give experts the time to examine the electric heating system that was installed in the 1990s.

This is no longer effective. It is hoped that with modern technologies a new and more efficient system can be put in place.

During this time the iconic Old Library, an important public space dating back to the 19th century, will be refurbished. Brass band concerts, weddings and other large events are held in the Old Library.

Once work is completed Greenwich Heritage plan a weekend of celebratory festivities to mark the occasion. Details are yet to be announced.

Laraine Mitchell: rebel with a cause

Laraine Mitchell sadly died at Queen Elizabeth Hospital on 20 December 2022. She had been increasingly unwell for the past five years and often in severe pain, but always ready to thank the doctors and nurses for all they were doing for her.

Well known in the area, Laraine supported community events and, when the weather was fine enough, was often to be seen at the Old Cottage Coffee Café in Charlton Park. As her health failed, she was always accompanied by her partner Keith who faithfully pushed her wheelchair to catch a bus, to go to the shops, attend meetings or enjoy passing company in the park.

Justice and fairness mattered to Laraine and she would argue her case strongly. Her brother George describes



her as a rebel with a cause – the plight of Palestinians, save our NHS, Black Lives Matters, buses cancelled without warning on football days, left-wing politics – all mattered to Laraine.

She was kind and honest, described by one of her four sisters as 'big-hearted Arthur' ready to help wherever and however she could.

Born in 1947, Laraine had grown up in Fairfield Grove and as her brother and sisters moved away, she stayed on to care for their mother. She was devoted to her large extended family – never missing a birthday or Christmas despite having fourteen nieces and nephews – and latterly a large number of great nieces and nephews. She will be greatly missed by Keith, family, neighbours and all those of us who knew her.

A load of rubbish!

But we can work together and change that ...

Litter is a scourge on our neighbourhood. It's unsightly, it's unhealthy and it's a shame. Walk the streets of Charlton and you can see debris everywhere and it blights the quality of our public places.

Government cuts are hitting local councils – including Greenwich – and with staff shortages inevitable we have to look to our own resources to help. Already residents in Delafield Road have taken the initiative and set up a litter picking scheme and regularly remove rubbish from the road.

This has made a big difference to the street and has had the effect of discouraging fly tipping and similar litter issues.

CCRA is hoping other streets in our area will pick up the torch and carry it to their road and introduce similar schemes. If we could all organise a street-by-street litter-picking plan,



our neighbourhood would soon be spruced up.

Greenwich Council have been very encouraging and are willing to help. They have donated litter-picking equipment to CCRA.

So, if you would like to help organise a litter

pick in your street CCRA can help with equipment and publicity.

Contact chair@charltonresidents.net for more information. Let's put some pavement pride back into our neighbourhood!



Above: Vikkie Barrie and Brenda Taggart set to work, picking up litter in Delafield Road



Charlton Village and Riverside Safer Neighbourhood Policing Team

As many of you will know, following previous reports in *Grapevine*, the old 'Charlton Ward' has now been split into two new wards: Charlton Village and Riverside (CV&R) and Charlton Hornfair. The map above shows the two new Wards.

CCRA is in the CV&R Ward. The new wards have new Safer Neighbourhood Policing Teams and CV&R is made up of Acting Sgt Rob Jackaman, PC Lydia Caldwell and PCSO Mike Rabin.

Part of the work of the SNT is to liaise with the community to discuss their safety concerns and to set the policing priorities for the area. The Ward priorities are decided at a Ward Panel meeting. The Ward Panel meets once every three months and is made up of representatives of the community.

If you are a member of a community organisation (eg residents' group, neighbourhood watch, amenity/faith group etc.) or if you consider your demographic (gender, race, sexual orientation) is under-represented, or you have an interest in community safety and would like to join the Ward Panel, please contact chair@charltonresidents.net, providing your name and contact details and we will get back to you with further details on how to join the Panel and have your say in how our area is policed.

the **GREEN** page

WE NEED MORE WATER!

'Substantial water shortages face the whole of South East England'; because of climate change and population growth 'we need an extra 1 billion litres of water every day,' says Thames Water in the introduction to a major consultation document on the Future of Water Supply in London and the south east of the country. They are consulting on plans for three major new infrastructure schemes. After years of under investment and high profits, it is now 'urgent'.

Their top priority is a new storage reservoir near Abingdon, downstream from Oxford, which will take water

from the Thames at peak periods; they are seeking to get planning permission by 2030 and expect water to be available by 2040. As well as direct extraction from the reservoir, water would be released back into the river when levels were low downstream.

Then there are proposals to extract water from the river near Teddington to be pumped to reservoirs in the Lea Valley and replacing it just downstream with treated effluent from the Mogden sewage plant at Isleworth.

Though similar schemes produce water safe to drink, there are concerns about



Extreme low water on the Thames in London during the summer of 2018

how it might increase the temperature and salinity of the river, affecting fish and plant life. There is also a longer term plan (possibly starting by 2050) to transfer water from the river Severn to the Thames when necessary.

Cost estimates for the plans are £13 billion. There is

no mention of how much will come from their profits, but for customers it is suggested that on top of the main water bill there would be a supplement increasing from £14 in 2030 to £37 in 2035 going up to £100 in 2050.

■ The consultation ends 21 March: thames-wrmp.co.uk

HOT, HOT, HOT

2022 was the hottest year ever in Charlton and all over the country. Last July, temperatures exceeded 40°C for the first time. That's in the shade; in many local gardens, out in the sun, plants were badly scorched and died.

But that was nothing compared to extreme weather in other parts of the world; forest fires lasting for weeks, continuing years of drought and starvation and recent floods in Pakistan and Indonesia affecting millions of people.

What can we expect in 2023? More of the same somewhere in the world is

a certainty. What can we expect here in Britain? We don't know; we might be lucky with no extreme events. But instead of high temperatures, we might have torrential rain and flooding.

While much of the borough's river frontage has been improved in the last 50 years, the flood wall between the Yacht club and the Barrier has not been improved and Charlton Riverside could be vulnerable.

We can't just isolate our country from climate change; we have to contribute to world-wide plans to reduce and eliminate the use of coal, oil and gas

to generate energy. We are making some progress; solar energy and offshore windfarms are growing and the government seems ready to extend this onshore.

But Ministers came back from the climate change conference in Cairo and agreed to a new coal mine opening in Cumbria, and on return from the biodiversity conference in Montreal they agreed to change the target date for cleaning our dirty rivers and beaches by a further 34 years to 2063!

CCRA is again testing air quality at the same spots we tested in 2017. You may notice tubes high up on some lamp posts. At best, this will provide fresh evidence to support campaigns to clean up the air we breathe, a huge health risk locally. It's only a gesture but although we cannot save the planet without national governments taking long term action, local government, groups and individuals can make small contributions.



Sun over the Thames

WHATEVER TAKES

Central Charlton is fortunate in having a wide range of interest groups – all within easy walking distance of your home. Here's an update – 2023 might be the year to add a new hobby or meet some neighbours

Walking group

November's walk was to The Police Museum in Bow Street via some interesting Victorian housing around Waterloo, over the Bridge and on to the famous court at No 4 (opened by Thomas de Veil in his family home in 1740). The history of policing in London is all there, Bow Street Runners, the Pankhursts and the Krays: a fascinating museum, well worth a visit.

I was pleased by a regular walker's suggestion to return to Brick Lane to follow a street art trail – known by some as 'graffiti' but that diminishes the skills and beauty of many works of art. On a very cold day in December we did just that, finding a Banksy and a couple of Stiks along the way.

In January we chose to stick closer to home and take, what I thought would be, a very familiar walk along the river from Anchor & Hope Lane to the Barrier, the proposed Faraday Works area, Maryon and Maryon Wilson Parks to Charlton Park and the splendid Old Cottage Cafe. I was surprised to find walkers coming across parts of Charlton they had either not noticed or not been to before – it is rather a special place!

Walks are on the second Sunday of each month, meeting at Charlton Station at 10.30am in winter. To receive emails about each walk please contact Jill at jillmo@btinternet.com

■ Next meeting: 12 February Charlton Station at 10.30am.

Playing Out

Playing Out is a national resident-led movement restoring children's freedom to play out in the streets and spaces where they live. For more details on the national scheme visit playingout.net.

RBG supports and encourages Playing Out schemes and our scheme has been going since 2015, largely due to our good



neighbours in Sundorne Road and our exceptional volunteer stewards. Sundorne Road is closed for a couple of hours once a fortnight. Our volunteer stewards' role is to ensure the children's safety by managing residents' access.

The scheme provides opportunities for children of all ages, supervised by their responsible adult, to experience street play – quite unlike playing in the park or in a friend's garden.

Once the weather has warmed up and the days are lighter, the scheme will resume at 3.30 to 5.00pm-ish on Wednesday 22 February and fortnightly thereafter (8 & 22 March, 5 & 19 April, 3, 17 & 31 May, 14 & 28 June, and 12 July).

If you would like to know more about the scheme or would be prepared to help steward (you do not have to commit to all dates listed above) then contact playingoutse7@gmail.com.

■ Next meeting: 22 February, Sundorne Road 3.30–5pm.

Charlton Community Gardens

As the new gardening year begins, it may be timely to underline CCG's successes. These include Royal Horticultural Society accolades of a Certificate of Distinction because the garden has received Outstanding grades for more than three years. London in Bloom puts forward only five gardens a year; and a Certificate of Recognition in 2020 for gardens that kept going throughout lockdown.

So as the new gardening year begins, a plea: We need more volunteers at the station garden. Could you commit to coming to the station garden the morning of the first Sunday of the month? Sometimes there's planting to be done, but always tending and tidying. Or through the summer could you commit to the watering rota once a week?

If you are able to join us, send an email to charltoncommunitygardens@gmail.com We would love to hear from you.

■ Next meeting 3 March, Charlton Station Garden 10am–12ish

Book group

As the book group is held in members' houses, numbers must be limited and we are not currently taking on new members.

We read a wide range of books (and enjoy some liquid refreshment and nibbles). Our last read was *Foster* by Claire Keegan – a slight, in wordcount, but deeply moving account of a



YOUR INTEREST...

young girl's summer spent with family members.

Our next read, in huge contrast, is *To Paradise* by Hanya Yanagihara, acclaimed author of *A Little Life*. *To Paradise* has more than 700 pages, so we've allowed ourselves plenty of time to read it!

If you would like more information about the group, ring Linda on 020 8858 7377.

■ Next meeting: 28 February at a group member's house in CCRA area 8pm.

Charlton Central on the Move

New Year's resolution to work out, not shirk out?

Then join the CCRA's weekly exercise class and benefit from a low impact session focusing on conditioning, toning, and balance.



The hour's session includes a heartbeat-raising warm-up, stretching/balance moves and a calming wind-down section.

Joanne, our qualified and experienced instructor, makes the session fly by with her great sense of humour and expert insights into the group's needs. Each session finishes with refreshments.

The classes are held in St Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road every Monday morning (Arrival 11.00-11.30, Exercise 11.30-12.30, Refreshments 12.30-1.00pm). We have a limited number of places available for this very popular class at £36 for 6 sessions – register early to secure a place for the best-value-in-town exercise.

If you would like to join the group, please email membership@charltonresidents.net with your name and contact details. Realise your 2023's New Year's resolution to keep fit and healthy without the excessive cost of gym membership!

■ Next meeting: every Monday morning at St Richard's Hall 11.30am-12.30pm.

Knit and Natter

We welcome anyone interested in joining the group to come along to any of our sessions during 2023. You don't have to sign up to every session but can 'pop in' whenever you have time. The K&N group meets in St Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road – 2pm to 4pm on

Tuesdays: 28 February, 28 March, 25 April, 30 May, 27 June, 25 July, 26 September, 31 October, 28 November and 19 December. Please note that the K&N session for this year will take place in



Annie Galloway and Brenda Taggart present blankets to Debbie Desousa of Demelza

the Garden Room, which can be accessed using the entrance in Sundorne Road. Please note that the main door in Swallowfield Road will be locked during these sessions.

Everyone is welcome, from absolute beginners to skilled veterans. Whilst we specialise in charity knits, you are welcome to bring along your own project. Great knitting, superb nattering and excellent cake – what is there not to like?

■ Next meeting: 28 February, St Richard's Hall 2-4pm

Instrumental Music Group 'SE7'

Sometime after the singing group was formed, we put out an invitation for any instrumentalists in the area, whatever their level of experience, to join a local group.

We met regularly for some time, with a group that included clarinets, guitars, saxophones, basses and various others from time to time. We ran regular sessions which resulted in our playing for CCRA events, including a couple of ceilidhs.

We now only rehearse if we need to prepare some new repertoire but we still play regularly, as 'SE7', at Cattleya, and these sessions are open to anyone who is available on the night. We have played for many CCRA events over the years, including the Big Lunch, street parties, Christmas Fair and, of course, the Ukraine Concert.

We are always interested in gaining new members, whatever your instrument or level of experience, and reading music is not essential.

Singing Group

The singing group meets fortnightly on Monday evenings. From the start our focus has been on singing for enjoyment, rather than rehearsing items for performance, and this still holds good today.

It's a policy which enables us to sing a very wide range of music – popular songs old and new, folk songs, madrigals and songs from different cultural traditions, including Eastern Europe, Africa and South America. We do perform in public occasionally, mainly at CCRA events such as the Christmas Fair and the Benefit Concert for Ukraine. We also lead the carol singing every year just before Christmas which has raised over £5,000 over the years for local charities. No audition required, we are open to anyone who wants to enjoy singing with others.

Please contact Chris on 020 8858 7377 for further information – or just come along to one of our singing sessions.

■ Next singing meeting: 20 February, 26 Wellington Gardens 7.30-9pm.





Michael John
Partner at Conran Charlton

Should You Invest In A Second Property Now?

The rate of homeownership in England is somewhere around 65%, and about 10% of Brits also own a second property. These are mostly buy-to-let investments, though some are second homes. In the last 30 years, property has proved to be an excellent investment vehicle, generating healthy returns and consistently defying doom-and-gloom prognoses of a housing market crash. No wonder the idea of purchasing additional property has widespread appeal. That said, if you look at our economic climate, it is clear that we are experiencing volatility. Whether your best decision is to buy now or wait until next year to invest in property is largely a question of how you interpret the figures.

How do you finance your second property purchase?

The most common route to second home ownership is via a mortgage. Lenders have stricter requirements for second properties, so if you can pay off the mortgage on your main home first, you'll be in a much better position.

Mortgage companies require larger deposits (at least 15%) for second properties before they are happy to approve a loan. For specialist buy-to-let and holiday-let mortgages, you will typically need to pay 25-30% upfront. The bigger the deposit you can put down, the better the mortgage deal you will be able to get, so there's an incentive to save! Also, assuming you own your main home, any additional property you buy will be considered by the taxman as a secondary residence.

What is your main reason for buying a second property?

Your choice of second property will be determined by the available budget as well as what you want to use the property for. If you're buying a second home for yourself or your family to use, the return on your investment will depend on capital growth over the duration of your ownership.

Are you investing in a holiday let?

Maybe you like the idea of a pretty country cottage or seaside pad for longer breaks that could generate holiday-let income when you're not using it? There are many options when it comes to buying a holiday home in the UK, both in terms of types of property and desirable locations. If you choose to run a permanent holiday-let business, on the other hand, there will be tax implications. A furnished holiday-let that is available for rent for at least 210 days a year is classed as a business. This means your rental income is taxable, but you are allowed to deduct relevant property expenses and claim certain allowances and reliefs.

Do you want to be a buy-to-let-landlord?

If you're looking for a solid income stream, perhaps a regular buy-to-let property is a better choice. Whether you're targeting students, young professionals or families, rental properties are in high demand all over the country. Of course, the holy grail is to achieve the double goal of capital growth so work out whether this will be a sound investment.

With rental properties, it's highly advisable to do as much research as you can before you buy. Make sure you speak to local lettings agencies to get a feel for the market, the target audience and the realistic rental yield you can expect to achieve in your chosen area.

Being a buy-to-let landlord can be a hands-on job. You'll have to deal with your tenants as well as ongoing building maintenance, or instruct an agent to manage the property for you which will eat into your profits.

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conran
a refreshing change



ELLISCOMBE ROAD, CHARLTON

ASKING PRICE £875,000

What a wonderful family home with a stylish interior and a beautiful rear garden set on a highly desirable road. EPC: C



TROUGHTON ROAD, CHARLTON

ASKING PRICE £595,000

A charming home that has been a true labour of love and is perfectly presented, and in an ideal location close to transport links and retail parks. EPC: E



ELLISCOMBE ROAD, CHARLTON

OFFERS OVER £800,000

One of a unique pair of semi's, this distinctive family home is truly interesting with flexible space, an impressive open plan kitchen/diner and a delightful large garden too. EPC: E



CITY VIEW, CHARLTON

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £568,000

Within this chic gated building is this immaculately presented and wonderfully spacious duplex apartment offering quality features throughout. EPC: B



SWALLOWFIELD ROAD, CHARLTON GUIDE PRICE £860,000

"We bought the house for its perfect location on such a quiet tree-lined street close to the station.

From the restored wooden floorboards to the leaded windows in the front door, it has kept the character and patina of the house whilst it's a very comfortable 21st-century home. The focal point of our home lies within the bespoke kitchen, organised around a breakfast bar with warm wooden worksurfaces, with a range cooker and wine fridge – perfect for those family gatherings.

The living room, just like the kitchen, is flooded by natural light from the side return extension, which offers direct access to the decking

via French doors and in the winter provides a cosy place in front of the fireplace. The garden has been a space to relax, barbecue or simply enjoy a coffee outdoors and for the children; a lawn to kick a ball around, mature trees to climb or hang up a hammock, and borders where we grow a mix of flowers and fruit trees."

This is such an ideal family home, as the seller says! With extended living space, storage in the cellar, and four large bedrooms with two bathrooms, there is room to grow into. Highly recommended and offered chain free!

EPC: D



How happy is my valley?

... A view from the terraces

Standing alongside 9,000 cheering Charlton fans at Old Trafford one chilly night in January I felt huge pride in my club and our team. Watched by a crowd of more than 70,000 we gave a good account of ourselves and it took the introduction of England striker Marcus Rashford to settle the issue as we went out in the quarter finals of the Carabao Cup 0-3.

Most poignant moment came when, at the close of play, our entire football entourage – team and management walked over to our crowd and applauded us! In return we sang to them for 20 minutes and went home feeling honour had been satisfied.

But, as ever with Charlton, it's not the whole story. Lurking beneath the surface, are worrying rumours of yet another takeover and again it's being done without transparency.

Multi-millionaire owner Thomas Sandgaard seems to have realised that there are no limits as to how much it costs to run a football club successfully. Promises of premiership football within five years look remote. Failure to invest in the right calibre of players to boost our struggling squad has meant the usual mediocrity of results that sees us currently mid table with promotion looking very unlikely.

Meanwhile we fans await the outcome of whatever is going on behind closed doors to see what lies in store.

Manager Ben Garner has departed after less than six

months in the job. After gaining just two points from five games the end came with a 0-1 home defeat against fellow strugglers Cheltenham. Garner's response was to say that continually changing managers was not the answer. "It's a cultural problem," he said.

Garner's replacement is Dean Holden who joined on 22 December, after working with several clubs including Stoke and Bristol City. So far, he has revitalised the side, injecting new belief in the players and chalking up a run of victories that has pulled us back from the brink to 14th place. We have games in hand so that situation could improve. It was Holden who took the team to Manchester and that alone will give him immense clout amongst the faithful.

As I write, three players have come in during the January transfer window: Todd Kane a defender from Coventry, Matt Penney, an attacking full back from Ipswich and Macauley Bonne a striker who was at Charlton a few seasons back. Bonne came on in Charlton's 2-0 home win against Barnsley and made an immediate impact. He is much needed because front-runner Jayden Stockley has only managed three goals all season – two of them from penalties – and Chuks Aneke rarely plays due to a string of injuries. Young hopeful Miles Leaburn has taken the lead up front and is showing great promise.

We have less than half the season left to transform our fortunes. As things stand, we are on a bit of a roll and if Dean Holden can keep the squad fit and positive, we may yet have a shot at the play offs. What will happen off the pitch is anybody's guess. The fans will be the last to be told. Crongers fished. COYR's.

Football v Homophobia

The last week in January saw Charlton hold its first Football v Homophobia event in partnership with the club's LGBTQ+ supporters' group, the Proud Valiants, the club's affiliated LGBTQI+ friendly team, Charlton Invicta and club partner, the University of Greenwich. The week aimed at promoting equality and fighting homophobia.

Women climb league

Charlton Women's team are climbing the Barclay's Women's Championship table and look set to be in the top three. Two cancelled matches – Blackburn and Lewes have delayed their progress but head coach Karen Hills, who has steered them to six wins in a row, is confident progress will continue. "It takes time to get a new team together," she said. "But we have found a bit of belief and are looking very strong."



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



What's happening at the Antigallican?

Readers will have noticed that the Antigallican at the bottom of Charlton Church Lane, has been extended and its attractive and striking external appearance has been preserved and enhanced.

But what's happening inside? Though there are new residents it has not reopened as a public house and signs on the door suggest it is now just residential.

The planning permission for the changes required the retention of a pub on the ground floor. We understand the council is investigating the situation.

There seems to have been a pub on the site for many years.

In 1792 the *Kentish Gazette* described a daring raid when '10 desperate villains' stole £60 from a 'small public house' near the 'Hanging Wood, 'called the Antigallican.

By 1829 it was called the Antigallican Arms and reports of the great crash in the tunnel between Charlton and Blackheath in 1864 refer to the injured being taken to the Antigallican Arms Tavern near Charlton station. Later it becomes the Antigallican Hotel.

Our Greenwich

The population of Greenwich now exceeds 289,000, an increase of 13.6% since the census of 2011, and we are a much more diverse community than we were ten years ago. Out of 19 different ethnic categories 41.4% are White British, 15.3% are Black African and 12.4% are Other White.

These and many more statistics are from the profile of the borough set out in the new corporate plan, entitled *Our Greenwich*, published in mid January by the Council. After this summary of where we are and vox-pop quotations showing local people's hopes, fears and challenges, the core of the plan looks at five themes:

- People – meeting need
- Place – developing Greenwich
- Economy – developing the local economy
- Communities – council support
- Organisation – improving how the council works.

Looking at the next four years and towards 2030, the plan sets out 20

'Missions' – what might be termed ambitions but not defined precisely enough to be targets.

Some are very anodyne, all "people in Greenwich should have a safe and secure home that meets their needs" or "everyone has the opportunity to secure a job", but together they do sketch out

the direction in which the council would like to go.

It doesn't deal seriously with finance problems, with staff numbers and morale and the reality that many other organisations, e.g. transport providers, the police or health authorities, as well as the council are the key players in delivering local services. Nor at a basic level does it recognise that

'residents' needs' may sometimes be as simple as getting someone to answer the phone.

However, *Our Greenwich* is very well set out, easy to read, very colourful and accessible and stimulates ideas about what could be if only ... But it's not a corporate plan.

■ royalgreenwich.gov.uk/corporate-plan



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

Dates for your diary

CCRA Spring Social

Games Café and Bar

Saturday 1 April

St Richard's Hall

5.00 – 8.30 pm

Community Day

Saturday 1 July

Full details nearer the time

Flower, Produce and Craft show

Saturday 9 September

St Richard's Hall

(see page 2)

CCRA AGM and Quiz night

Saturday 7 October

St Richard's Hall

Christmas Fayre

Saturday 9 December

St Richard's Hall.



GRAPEVINE

Comments, feedback, queries or material for the next edition of *Grapevine* should be emailed to grapevine@charltonresidents.net by 27 March 2023. 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) for details of CCRA events.



THUMBS UP



... to all those residents of central Charlton who gave so generously both to our Ukraine appeal fund raising event and to the carol singing collection on behalf of the food bank.

THUMBS DOWN!



... to the polluting parents at Fossdene Primary School, who park on yellow lines and sit in their cars with the engines on.



CCRA Spring Social – Games Café & Bar

Saturday 1 April 5-8.30pm

St Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road, SE7 7NP

Fancy trying out a new game or playing one of the classics? We have a fantastic range of games for all ages and interests. You can also enjoy a hot dog or slice of pizza whilst playing.

CALLING ALL KIDS: CAN YOU WRITE?

Do you have a story about Charlton? Can you write it down? Would you like to have it published? If the answer to all three questions is yes, then you could be a reporter for *Grapevine*. We would like to make our magazine more inclusive and get children involved. If there are any budding journalists in our area who read *Grapevine* and are interested, drop me a line – Bob Smith, 64 Elliscombe Road, London, SE7 7PY.

Charlton Central Residents Association