



Charlton House opens its doors once more ...

Charlton House, the grand old lady of our neighbourhood, has dusted off her winter blues and returned to work. The doors reopened at the start of April, just as predicted – with significant improvements.

A much upgraded and more efficient heating system is now in place, the café has been refurbished and there has been a general facelift. All welcome news for our community who regularly use the facilities.

But it is not plain sailing. There are glitches and, inevitably, they are linked to costs. The major headache is the roof that needs repair. And that is a very expensive item. Also, the lift, which was installed many years ago needs renewing and cannot be fixed until sometime in the summer. Until then upstairs rooms are out of reach for the disabled.

Greenwich Heritage Trust, which oversees Charlton House, put in a bid for lottery funding combined with a move to bring the archive out of storage and into the building. Sadly, their bid was unsuccessful.

Undaunted, local councillor Jo van den Broek, who is a trustee, was positive about the future when *Grapevine* spoke to her in early April. Jo said: "We are very much open for business again although some issues remain to be resolved.



Beautiful blossom: After a seemingly endless, cold, wet and windy winter, spring has finally appeared in Charlton. Our photographer Dinah Moro captured this fabulous display earlier in the month in Sundorne Road. More spring pictures on Green Page 5

We will be looking at alternative methods of funding as soon as possible.

"We are disappointed that the lift cannot be fixed more quickly but it took a long time to discover the old lift was not repairable. We are pushing to have more community use for Charlton House, to build a more inclusive programme, so everything is going in the right direction."

The House is closed between 13 and 27 April while filming takes place, a move that will bring in much needed revenue for the trustees. The library will remain open but on reduced hours.

STOP PRESS: Celebrate the coronation with a king-sized street party. Elliscombe and Inverine Roads have already taken the plunge ...

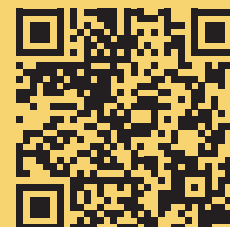


MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Many thanks to everyone who has renewed their membership for 2023.

Great response. If you have not renewed, or would like to join, your options are:

1. Call or text Jacqui on 07717742886 and we will bring a membership form to you.
2. Head to our website where you will be able to link to our online forms:
charltonresidents.net/?page_id=12902



TICK ...TOCK... countdown to the 2023 Flower, Produce and Craft Show continues ...

As you will have seen from the yellow insert in this issue of *Grapevine*, the FP and C show is getting closer. Now's the time to start practising those culinary creations, for your entries to the baking and preserving categories. If you spent lock-down watching cookery programmes, making bread and rummaging through cookbooks, these are the events for you.

In the baking categories this year are the old favourites: bread (white, brown and speciality) and cakes (Victoria, chocolate, carrot, vegan, traybakes and cup-cakes). There are new categories to make your mouth water: fruit scones, canapés, fritters, quiche and cheese straws. Remember, at the end of the show everyone can taste the entries and appreciate the skill of these bakers. Heather Staines has been wowing the CCRA exercise class with her wonderful cheese straws.

Can you beat Heather's simple but delicious recipe?

- 65g softened butter, 250g mature cheddar (grated), 140g self-raising flour, salt and a pinch of mustard powder or cayenne pepper.
- Whack it all in a food processor (or mix by hand) to form a dough.
- Roll out and cut into whatever shape you like and place on greased baking sheet, then bake at 160 degrees fan oven for 15 minutes (makes 20).

Go on – give it a go!

The show is on Saturday, 9 September 8.00 am to 4.00 pm in St Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road. See charltonresidents.net/?page-id=12432 for the Schedule of Entries and Hints and Tips on what the judges look for in a winning entry.

■ If you would like further information contact Brenda (07939 090 676) or Jacqui (07717 742 886).



Heather with her cheese straws

CCRA Community Day: Saturday, 1 July

Put the date in your diary to ensure that you'll be able to join in our annual get-together.

In the morning working groups will get about and it's about taking care of our environment – picking

up litter, tidying green spaces. Equipment will be provided, and all will be welcome. There's a free community lunch at 12.00 for all volunteers.

In the afternoon there will be another opportunity to set out

your stall. You can have fun setting up a stall, with items to sell such as:

- goods that showcase your creative talents
- unwanted items that others can upcycle or recycle
- cakes or refreshments.

Morning Session: meet up at 10.00-10.15 am at St Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road – to help at our 2023 clean-up
Afternoon Session: stalls open throughout streets in CCRA area between 2.00-5.00 pm.

■ To register your stall or for more information, call or text Jacqui on 07717742886

Hold the front page ... for Lana Lucy, our newest recruit!

With her pen poised, budding journalist Lana Lucy is following her dream to be a writer. Not a bad ambition for a six-year-old.

Lana Lucy was inspired by our back page appeal in the last issue of *Grapevine*: '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* ...'

Lana Lucy got straight on the case. She wrote a story, which her father, Tony sent to us, saying: "Lana Lucy is excited to get more involved as a 'budding journalist'. The story and illustration are 100% hers. We, her parents, Ana and Tony, have only corrected spelling and punctuation. Please consider her effort and initiative and respond as you see fit ..." We did see fit and arranged to meet and talk to her at her home in Charlton. Here's the story she wrote:

Once there was a gray cat. His name was Puss in Boots. He had a brother who was called Humpty Dumpty McGregor. They were both orphans. Puss was raised by a stranger but not Humpty Dumpty.

Fortunately, the lady who raised Puss was a lady of kindness. But Puss was no ordinary cat. Well, he was ordinary in the day but not in the night. The cat leaped through Charlton.

And here's what she told us...

Why does she want to be a journalist? Lana Lucy said: "Because, if I write something, maybe if other people can read it then they can let their kids know and then they can do it too.

"I could write since I was in reception. I sometimes write some stories at school, sometimes at home, so (I write) quite a lot." She adds that she had a diary for her birthday, but as her birthday was in March she's only written 'several pages' so far.

She tells me she's getting excited about becoming a journalist, so what does she think is the job?

Lana Lucy replies: "I think it's writing in newspapers, maybe writing reports on something new that's coming off."

Asked if she has any stories about Charlton, she says: "Well, once there was this squirrel ... I was looking at it, and it was, like, looking at us, and we took a picture of it in Charlton Park. And there's lots of foxes in Charlton. Other animals, maybe birds, cats and dogs, ants - there used to be a lot (of ants) in our back yard."

She has already thought about the next two stories she wants to write: "Maybe about my toys and about the animals they talk to, and about roller skating in Charlton Park."

When it comes to writing a book herself one day, it turns out she's ahead of the game: "I've actually already written one of my books, one of my own. I've written one about Little Red Riding Hood and the World." Which bit of the world? "Well...



the North Pole, and I drew an igloo, maybe penguins living there, and I think I wrote about Africa, so quite a lot of places. I'm not sure what I drew first, of course."

But sadly, she doesn't have a copy because: "I simply lost it."

She is already planning her first article for the next issue of *Grapevine* and we're all looking forward to reading it.

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

The Met: what's happening?

In early March Baroness Louise Casey published a damning review of the Metropolitan Police, in which she said: 'I make a finding of institutional racism, sexism, and homophobia in the Met' with concerns going back to before the 1999 Macpherson inquiry into the racist murder of Stephen Lawrence in Eltham.

The report goes on to say that 'A series of scandals involving the Met and the Met's response – playing them down, denial, obfuscation, and digging in to defend officers without seeming to understand their wider significance – combined with this loss of trust, are strong indicators of fundamental problems'. Whilst many of us have had positive interactions with the police, sadly this isn't the experience of an increasing number of people living in our city.

The public's confidence in our police force has been severely eroded and this cannot be explained away by a 'few bad apples'. The review is very hard hitting and goes on to discuss whether the Met's leadership, recruitment, vetting, training, culture and communications, support the standards the public can expect.

Given ongoing concerns about the Met, it was therefore unsurprising that in July 2022 the HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) placed the force on its 'Engage phase', a form of special measures. This required the development of an improvement plan. At the same time the Met appointed a new Commissioner: Sir Mark Rowley. In March 2023 he published a paper called the

'Turnaround Plan' in response to the Casey Report and being on special measures.

The Plan identifies three missions to 'turn around' the Met: restoring Trust, delivering Less Crime and ensuring High Standards. Within the 'Mission' there are nine Turnaround Priorities which details improvements on: 1) Neighbourhood Policing; 2) Public Protection; 3) Service to Victims; 4) Reducing Crime; 5) Raising Standards; 6) Supporting the Frontline; 7) Modernising Learning; 8) Being Data Driven; and 9) Embracing Innovation. Each priority has clear identifiable outcomes on which the Met will be held accountable.

For CCRA it is important to note Priority 1: Neighbourhood Policing. The published Outcomes for this priority are the implementation of: (i) London's largest ever neighbourhood police presence with more local officers and Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) recruited and trained and (ii) Better, more visible relationships with communities who tell us that our partnerships are solving problems that matter.

Charlton Central Neighbourhood Watch (CCNWatch – see ccnwatch.org) looks forward to changes promised to Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) policing. Our own SNT team has been understaffed for many years. We have seen too many changes in personnel, with local knowledge being lost through staff turnover. We have seen too many abstractions from our team, with officers taken from our community to police events in other areas. It is too long since we have been fully staffed. We are still awaiting the appointment of a full-time dedicated police officer, the lack of which reduces significantly the effectiveness of our team and puts undue pressure on those picking up the shortfall.

CCNWatch and the Charlton Village and Riverside Ward SNT Policing Panel will be monitoring the implementation of the Turnaround Plan and will work with the Council's Safer Greenwich organisation to hold the Met to account.

The Plan is currently out for consultation, and you can respond via an online survey. Both the Plan and the Survey can be accessed at: met.police.uk/notices/met/the-turnaround-plan-more-trust-less-crime-and-high-standards.

Before completing the survey, you may want to read a response from Chair of the London Assembly's the Police and Crime Committee, see: bit.ly/LGA-police-plan-response.

We hope that the Met can 'turn around' and change a culture that has condoned racism, sexism, and homophobia. The safety of the public, and confidence in the police, is important to everyone. We look forward to the restoration of confidence in those tasked with keeping us safe.

Watch out – there's a burglar about

Charlton Central Neighbourhood Watch (ccnwatch.org) has to report a spate of burglaries in our area. In a recent case a uPVC front door lock was drilled in order to gain entry. Burglaries are happening in the wee hours of the morning. The modus operandi seems to be 'get in an out very quickly' taking small portable items such as cash, phones, iPads and credit cards. Please ensure you lock up securely. If you have a uPVC door it is important that you lock it correctly with the key, each night, to ensure all bolts are deployed. If the bolts are in place, it makes it more difficult to gain entry once the lock has been drilled. Please also make sure your sheds are secure. Since it is now an offence to 'go equipped to burgle', most burglars will target a shed in order to get hold of a tool to gain entry.

the GREEN page

Everything's coming up roses. .. and forsythia and camellias. Our photographer Dinah Moro was out and about with her camera in Charlton earlier this month to prove that spring has really sprung. The forsythia was in Swallowfield Road, the camellias in Priolo Road and the cherry blossom in Sundorne Road.

Taking stock

Spring at last! Warm sunshine, buds bursting into blooms and those so fresh clean green leaves sprouting on first bushes, then smaller trees and finally those sturdy giants. It's no time for gloomy predictions. So, what is the good news for our environment and climate change?

Well, renewables have become much cheaper than oil and gas and, before too long, our bills will reflect this. We are steadily increasing the proportion of energy generated from offshore wind farms around our coasts and, in spite of little support from government, the number of solar panels also continues to grow. But why not on every suitable new building? The water companies are coming under strong pressure to do something about the sewage scandal; there's a growing rebellion against the constant pollution of our rivers and streams. All over the place local campaigners are demanding safe swimming in local rivers and the regulators, and after years of gentle raps on the knuckle, are starting to take action. But I'll believe those unlimited fines when they happen.

The media seem to be providing us with more information about the effects of global warming and how we have allowed our environment to decline, how so many species of animals, fish, birds and insects are threatened and how that in turn damages so much of what we need, love and enjoy. The glorious photography in David Attenborough's programmes and some episodes of Countryfile are both a joy and a warning, but also demonstrate that, in some cases, what has nearly been lost can yet be saved, restored and brought back to life again.

And how are we doing locally? It's a mixed message. There are hundreds of new trees being planted in the borough, but not yet on the Charlton Riverside. The Mayor claims there is already a reduction in air pollution since the introduction of the ULEZ zone inside the north and south circular roads, which he is now struggling to extend throughout greater London. And the 25km long London Supersewer, when it comes on stream by early 2025, must help clean up the Thames. On reducing car use and increasing waste recycling, Greenwich Council has set clear and bold policy objectives. Let's hope that before long they can give us positive reports on progress.

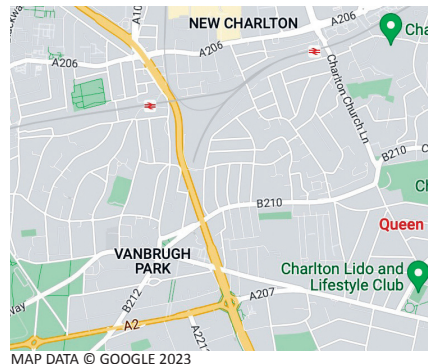
Nationally it's a different story. What would be good news would be a rapid rethink on recent announcements and a recognition by the government that granting permission for any new oil and gas fields in the North Sea would breach their legal commitments on climate change. To give way to the deniers and delayers on global warming would negate all the positive steps that are being taken elsewhere. So, sorry, but I'm afraid the good news is still rather limited But enjoy the spring.



What's going on? Charlton is being wiped off the map

First signs of the attack on Charlton were picked up looking at maps in the new planning document from the council. In several maps the name Charlton has disappeared altogether, and our area is being steadily being taken over by a newcomer 'Vanbrugh Park'.

Along with our friends in Westcombe Park, we're familiar with Vanbrugh Hill and the Castle, but how has this new intruder suddenly appeared on maps. In one map Vanbrugh Park straddles the motorway to the Blackwall Tunnel, in a second



it's shown east of the motorway and in a third just south of Charlton station, bang on top of the CCRA area.

But it's not just a mistake by external consultants producing that planning document for the council.

Check maps on your phone and depending on which provider you're with, Charlton has disappeared from some of them as well and all we're left with is New Charlton in small print.

How and why has this happened? Who has invented this new name? And what needs to be done to put it right?

■ To check, go to Greenwich council's website, then to Council Consultations, and the Urban Design Guide – Section B, p31.

Plan for a beautiful future?

Along with many other councils in the country, Greenwich has produced a first draft of a new planning document an Urban Design Guide, believed to be in response to Michael Gove's idea of creating more beautiful buildings.

It describes itself as 'detailed guidance on the design of buildings, streets and spaces including advice on design of house extensions, retail and office development and green spaces alongside key issues such as sustainability, parking, lighting and managing flood risk'. It is a very long document: with appendices it is many hundreds of pages long. But it is going to be very important in helping to determine future planning applications through the borough. When finalised it

will have the status of a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), the same as the Masterplan for Charlton Riverside.

Some of the guidance is not Greenwich specific, but there are large sections which provide very detailed and interesting background information showing, for example, when different areas of Charlton were built. In answer to the question 'Who is it for?' it lists, in order, developers and builders, house-holders, design professionals, consultees, council members and officers. The document does firmly recommend potential developers to consult as early as possible and even says 'children and young people should be consulted' in certain situations, but it somehow just reinforces the view that planning is impenetrable, hugely complicated and bureaucratic and ordinary people don't have much of a chance.

The long section on tall buildings is of obvious importance re Charlton Riverside. Two core principles are that future heights should take account of existing context height: 2-3 storeys in Charlton Riverside, and nearness to good transport, high near Woolwich Road and the station, and lower on the riverbank. So, the document concludes that 'opportunities' are 'in line with the Charlton Riverside SPD'. That means 'opportunities' to build high. So, not much change but a little loophole: heights should not 'generally' exceed 10 storeys. And 'an opportunity for 9 storeys near the station on Charlton Church Lane' to 'enhance wayfaring', which seems to mean helping people know the station is there!

There are a few interesting observations about other parts of the borough. 'Avoid continuous runs of tall buildings along the riverside' and 'protect the views of the O2' seem a bit late for Greenwich Peninsula. Abbey Wood, benefiting from the Elizabeth line, is being lined up as the next high-rise centre in the borough. Whether this guide will help to enhance architecture will be for a next generation to determine. But if we are to make a little contribution to that outcome, we've got to be able to utilise a lot of the good guidance it contains to restrain those just looking for 'opportunities' to make vast profits.



Twice SE London Camra pub of the year
Four times SE London Camra cider pub of the year
SPBW Greater London pub of the year 2019

Guided walk on 13 May – Charlton and Hornfair Parks

Please join us on Saturday 13 May for the first of a series of 'forum walks', continuing throughout the spring and summer. The first walk will start from outside the Old Cottage Coffee Shop in Charlton Park, meeting at 10.45am for an 11:00am start.

Our first walk will take us southbound, out of Charlton Park and through the residential streets to Hornfair Park (right).

We will stop for a catch-up with the newly formed 'Friends of Hornfair Park', around 11.30, before arriving back to finish where we began, via the lido. The total distance will be around 1.5 miles and we will be taking it easy, so please don't worry if you are not a fast walker!

We aim to be back at the Coffee Shop in Charlton Park by no later than 12.30, so if you cannot make the walk, but still want to come and see us for a chat (and a coffee!) then join us there.

Forum committee members will



be on the walk, including Chair Clare Loops, who will be happy to answer questions you may have about neighbourhood plans.

Clare and other committee members will also be happy to hear walkers'

thoughts and suggestions for the Neighbourhood Plan as we meander around the area.

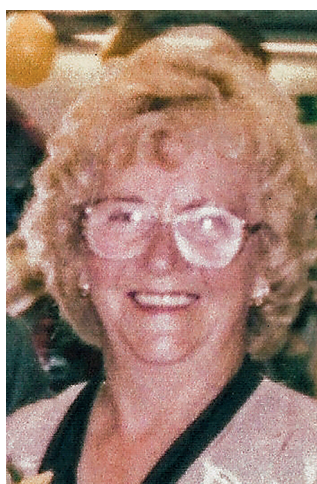
The second walk is provisionally planned for Saturday, 10 June – look out for details.

Doreen Gunning – too busy to die...

Despite the fact that Doreen Gunning always claimed that she was 'too busy to die', she sadly passed away last month at the age of ninety-three, having lived a full and eventful life.

Doreen was born in 1930 at St. Alfege's Hospital in Greenwich. When she was eight the family moved to Bristol, and it was from there that she was evacuated. After the war they moved back to London when her father got work in Sydenham.

In 1950, Doreen married Trevor. Four years later they moved to their home in Nadine Street, where they lived for the rest of their lives. Together they spent much of their spare time at AEI's Meridian Sports Club in



Charlton Park Lane, with their shared enthusiasm for sport of all kinds – including bowls, darts and athletics.

Doreen kept active through keep-fit and, more glamorously, through tap dancing. It was tap

dancing which led to what her daughter describes as the highlight of her life – appearing twice on the Paul O'Grady show on television.

Over the years, Doreen, a dedicated fund-raiser, managed to raise thousands of pounds for the sports club. Following the death of one of her daughters in 2015, she also raised funds for Cancer Research. Doreen loved to organise things – so her fund-raising tombolas and social events went like clockwork. For many years she also organised coach trips all over the country – starting from Charlton House.

From 1967, Doreen ran a floristry shop, initially at 60 Charlton Church Lane, moving in 1983 to 25

Charlton Church Lane. She gave up the shop in 1997 following three break-ins but it was not an easy decision for her. She described selling it as 'like losing my baby!'

In addition to the shops, Doreen will be remembered fondly by many in the neighbourhood – for her involvement at Meridian and with CCRA – a regular attendee at events such as the Flower and Produce show and activities such as Knit and Natter. She is survived by her daughter Beverly and son Glynn, by six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Her funeral will be held at St Luke's Church on Thursday 11 May at 11.00 am. Anyone who knew her is welcome to attend.



Michael John
Partner at Conran Charlton

How To Ensure You Get The Right Price For Your Home

The property market has been turbulent and fast paced in the recent years. However, the market has been extremely good overall. While interest rates have risen, this was short-lived, and the market has been buoyant.

It is natural that buyers always want to get the best value when purchasing a property, but it is also true that as a seller, you want to get the right price. This is a challenging issue to balance, but you can maximise your property's market value and ensure that you find a seller to pay that price.

Work with an estate agent you can trust

When selling a property, you must put faith in your estate agent. If you don't work in the industry, you depend on his or her knowledge and expertise for advice.

While you make the decisions, you're still taking key advice from your estate agent. This means that you must ensure the agent you choose really knows his stuff, understands the market, and can deliver results. Check online reviews and opinions on what it's like to work with the estate agent.

List it sensibly

When selling your property, you need to make important considerations. Where you set your price reveals a lot about your property. But this is a fine balance – set it too high and you'll likely be up against better properties. Set it too low and you risk taking a loss.

It is important to examine the local property market. Remember not to get tunnel vision about your property – sure, your 3-bed property is in a great location, but don't price out your buyers and compete with 4-bed houses.

Futureproof your energy consumption

Most homebuyers are becoming increasingly eco and energy savvy, seriously considering the importance of how a house is powered. Where in the past gas central heating was a big selling point, buyers look for energy-efficient systems.

Investing in systems such as ground and air source heat pumps or solar panels is a plus. Another option is installing your own oil tank. This is a cost effective and durable option with proper maintenance and filling up when oil is cheap.

Keep it tidy and inviting

A clean and tidy home affects the sale price. Your home is a showcase to success and ensuring that its neat is a priority. It is essential to maintain the cleanliness of the home during the viewing stage.

Declutter your property before you begin the selling. Making your home shipshape now will make it easier to keep it tidy for everything from the photography, through viewings and packing up to your next home.

Provide a blank canvas

Give buyers more opportunity to visualise a space in the way they would use it. Strip out any of your idiosyncratic home design that you added to the property.

Regardless of your taste, they won't be to everyone's liking. If you can, simplify everything with a lick of paint in neutral colours. Offering viewers a blank canvas will widen the appeal and potential they see in your property.

BROCKLEY | FOREST HILL
CHARLTON | WESTCOMBE PARK
LEE | ELTHAM
GREENWICH | BLACKHEATH
ASSOCIATED PARK LANE OFFICE
LAND AND NEW HOMES
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conran
a refreshing change



VAMBERY ROAD, WOOLWICH GUIDE PRICE £625,000

We are simply stunned at how beautifully the sellers have remodelled and refurbished this home! Offering amazing family space, terrific light, and located in a sought after area of red-brick roads, this is a house of delights! EPC: D



ELLISCOMBE ROAD, CHARLTON OFFERS OVER £800,000

A charming and distinctive family home that is one of a unique pair of semi's built around 1947. This is a very special house being offered to the market for the second time in forty years. EPC: E



GURDON ROAD, CHARLTON ASKING PRICE £375,000

A gorgeous ground floor maisonette with its own private garden. This lovely property has a living room with a bay window and parquet floors, a main bedroom with fitted wardrobes that looks out to the rear garden, a second bedroom that is a large single, and a nicely fitted kitchen. EPC: C



FAIRTHORN ROAD, CHARLTON ASKING PRICE £315,000

An immaculate apartment built just over ten years ago and in a private development and offered as a chain free sale. There is a spacious living/dining room that has a fitted cupboard housing the boiler and is open-plan to a stunning fitted kitchen. A door leads on to a private balcony that is perfect for relaxing outside with room to sit or have plants. EPC: B



SWALLOWFIELD ROAD, CHARLTON

GUIDE PRICE £850,000

"We moved into Swallowfield Road nearly three years ago and loved the house at first sight."

A very spacious Victorian house with a loft conversion and situated in one of the most desirable roads in Charlton. This is an exceptional home, with superb and flexible living space laid out over three floors; perfect for any growing family.

The stunning frontage with fig tree and tiled path leads into a long hallway with ornate plasterwork ceilings and understairs storage. There is a living-dining room with folding doors, matching period fireplaces, a bay window with shutters, ornate ceiling plasterwork and wood floors. To the rear is a large recently fitted navy blue kitchen-diner that is

well-proportioned, and leads out to a beautiful rear garden that faces south-west and includes a wisteria and a pear tree.

On the first floor there are three double bedrooms and a family bathroom, plus a useful second W.C.

The top floor boasts a bedroom with rooftop views and an en-suite shower room. Charlton station and retail shops are just around the corner, and include Sainsbury's, M&S and IKEA: ideal for a professional family looking for convenience, good schooling and excellent transport links.

Offered completely chain free and highly recommended. EPC: E



How happy is my valley?

... A view from the terraces

Real hope for the future

It rained all day in Charlton on March 31. So I was not surprised when, the following day, my wife announced: "The game's been cancelled. Waterlogged pitch." Then she said: "April Fool!"

Having recovered from this side-splitting event I grabbed my season ticket and headed for the Valley feeling as gloomy as the overcast conditions. Nothing special to play for; we were 12* and too far from the play-offs to matter and securely above the relegation zone.

What took place in the next 90 minutes I may never witness again in my life as a Charlton fan. We thrashed promotion chasing Shrewsbury 6-0 in as clinical a drubbing as I have ever seen. You have to go back 47 years for the last time this happened. To make matters worse for the Shrews, defender Tom Flanagan was sent off.

Ten players were no match for Charlton as they ran rampant through the Shrewsbury ranks peppering the goal and scoring regularly. It was a much-needed shot in the arm for fans as the Boys had gone five home games without a win. Yes, they were scoring on the road but just couldn't deliver at home.

The previous Saturday we watched a lacklustre performance for a 1-1 draw against Wycombe Wanderers and now here were the same players forensically taking apart a side tenth in the division and hoping to make the play offs. And each goal was a peach. From the foul that cost Flanagan a yellow, Scott Fraser stepped up and slotted an inch-perfect free kick into the top right-hand corner: 1-0. Fifteen minutes later Albie Morgan latched on to a precision pass from Jesurun Rak-Sakyi, took one touch to control and one more to hammer it home in the left-hand corner: 2-0. Now it was Palace loanee Rak-Sakyi who took centre stage dancing round seemingly static defenders as he advanced on goal and cheekily flicked the ball in the left-hand corner with the outside of his left

boot: 3-0. And half time Could we keep this up? Too often Charlton have snatched defeat from the jaws of victory in this situation. Not today. This was different. This was a team full of fire and fight. From a rare Shrewsbury attack Terell Thomas came out of defence, spotted Miles Leaburn beyond the half-way line and sent him a precision pass. Leaburn, displaying craft beyond his years turned on two defenders advanced towards goal and, still 30 yards out, slammed home a shot into the right-hand corner between the legs of the centre half. 4-0. Moments later it was five when the hapless Flanagan handled in the box and up stepped 19-year-old Leaburn to slot it home for his second and the team's fifth. By now manager Dean Holden was able to swap his squad round, giving five subs a chance to shine and by the final whistle he had fielded seven academy players – a real hope for the future.

With time running out Charlton continued to press hard and Rak-Sakyi dived low into the box to send a glancing header into the net. Sadly, it was ruled offside. But we had not finished. As the clock ticked down Aaron Henry blasted a rocket shot into the penalty area where it found the feet of Macauley Bonne. The goalless striker, who only returned to Charlton in January, calmly slipped the ball past the keeper for his first and Charlton's sixth. Job done.

Off the field there are changes afoot. Owner Thomas Sandgaard is selling the club to a consortium of three Americans and one British investor. Due diligence has been done and after further checks on the prospective owners, a deal will be announced probably in early May. Word is, they have promised money to buy new players and further pledged to get Charlton into a top six play-offs place for a shot at promotion next season. With an academy packed with bright talent the future seems bright and promotion next season beckons. Crongers fished. COYRS!



Bitter blow for Charlton Women

London City Lionesses – or whatever you want to call them – are still Millwall to Valley fans, and old rivalries die hard.

So, it was particularly hard to take for Charlton Women when they lost by the odd goal in early April. Especially

so as the Lionesses had the audacity to steal a 3-4 win when they played at The Oakwood.

Three points would have seen Charlton overtake the Lionesses and move into second place.

But the loss saw Birmingham steal

the third place and Charlton dropped to fourth.

It was a double blow because Freda Ayisi was shown the red card on 63 minutes for a second yellow offence. Charlton fought on, only to lose by a late goal.

On the Grapevine ...

Charlton Community Gardens

Our annual Plant Sale will be held on Thursday 18 May from 5.00 pm on Inverine, Elliscombe and Troughton Roads. Look on the website (charltoncommunitygardens.org.uk) for details of the sites. We will be selling garden flowers and shrubs, houseplants, herbs and vegetable seedlings.

Each year through your generous support, we raise funds to replace soil in the raised beds, buy new plants and fruit trees and whatever else is necessary to keep the gardens looking good. And we will continue to welcome new volunteers at the monthly Gardening Party, the first Sunday of the month from 10am at the station garden. Grow well!

Singing group

Our regular sessions will resume after the Easter break, but because of all the bank holidays we are fitting them into the weeks between, rather than holding them every fortnight. The dates for the summer are: 17 & 24 April; 15 & 22 May; 5 & 19 June. We sing a wide range of songs. There is no audition process to join the group, we are open to anyone who wants an opportunity to enjoy singing with others. Please contact Chris on 020 8858 7377 for further information – or just come along to one of our sessions.

Instrumental music group 'SE7'

We have played regularly at Cattleya this year, and have enjoyed guest performances from Hope Augustus, Kaz McColl and others. We'll take a break over Easter, but we're back there again on Sunday 21 May and hope to fit in another slot in June. You may also find members of the group playing at local events over the coronation weekend in 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.

Knit and Natter

Calling All Knitters – come and join your local knitting group and enjoy great knitting, excellent nattering and some pretty good tea and cake. We meet in St Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road, 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm on Tuesdays: 25 April, 30 May, 27 June, 25 July, 26 September, 31 October, 28 November and 19 December. We meet in the Garden Room, so please use the entrance in Sundorne Road. People at any level of expertise, from beginner to Fair Isle patterning, are welcome to come along. You don't have to sign up to every session but can 'pop in' whenever you have time.

Playing Out

After a long winter absence, Playing Out has woken up to Spring. We are resuming out sessions in Sundorne Road with our fantastic team of volunteer stewards and children who



can't wait to expend some energy in running about and riding their bikes/scooters in a safe and happy environment. Our scheme sees Sundorne Road closed for a couple of hours once a fortnight for street play. Children's safety is managed by our stewards who also control residents' access.

Look out for street closure signs on the following: 3.30 pm to 5.00ish on Wednesday 5 & 19 April; 5, 3, 17 & 31 May; 14, 28 June and 12 July. If you would like to know more about the scheme or are able to steward from time to time then contact playingoutse7@gmail.com.

Book group

Hanya Yanagihara's earlier book *A Little Life* is currently being staged at the Harold Pinter theatre. Despite the fact that she is so acclaimed, most group members did not enjoy reading her later book *To Paradise*.

In March we read *Still Life* by Sarah Winman, which we agreed had some failings, but in compensation had included amazing scenes of the destruction (and attempts at restoration) caused by the 1966 flood of the River Arno in Florence.

Our April read will be *Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead* by Olga Tokarczuk (now being staged at the Barbican).

Walking group

Although it can be a struggle to venture out on a cold winter's morning, those who made February's walk were well rewarded with a walk which took in the area around the British Museum and ended with an exhibition entitled 'In Plain Sight' at the Wellcome Collection.

Chilly March took us to St James's Park where we enjoyed spring flowers and early blossom. In Belgravia we played 'Guess the Embassy' from the flags above the entrances; passing a couple of Grade II listed green, wooden structures known as Cabmen's Shelters en route. We ended our walk with a trip to the Natural History Museum for a talk and tour, Women in Science, which celebrated International Women's Day.

April's walk to see the bluebells in Lesnes Abbey Woods was lovely except there were no bluebells! Well, there were a couple of tiny buds emerging but the cold start to the morning told the story of a delayed spring. However, a welcome hot drink in the café and beautiful warm sunshine as we headed home gave us all a taste of Spring.

During the summer our walks start at 10.00 on the second Sunday of each month – the next one being 14 May – meeting at Charlton Station; if you would like to receive information about upcoming walks please email Jill (jillmo@btinternet.com).

Dates for your diary

Charlton Neighbourhood Forum

The first of a series of guided walks:
13 May 10.45am Meet at the Old Cottage Coffee Shop in Charlton Park
For details see page 7

Charlton Community Garden Plant Sale

18 May from 5.00pm
See page 11 for more details

Community Day

Saturday 1 July
Details to follow

Flower, Produce and Craft Show

Saturday 9 September
St Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road
(see page 2 and yellow insert)

CCRA AGM and Quiz night

Saturday 7 October
St Richard's Hall

Christmas Fayre

Saturday 9 December
St Richard's Hall



THUMBS UP



To Dean Holden, Charlton manager, who popped into the Royal Oak pub in Charlton Lane after a recent match and put money over the bar for local fans. Memo to Dean: The British Oak in Old Dover Road also hosts many Charlton fans.

THUMBS DOWN!



To people who haven't noticed that black bins are only being emptied once a fortnight or that 53% of the stuff they're putting into them could go in the blue recycling bin which is emptied weekly.



CCRA's Games Night on 1 April, attracted participants of all ages to play anything from chess and Scrabble to tiddly winks or Jenga.

GRAPEVINE

Comments, feedback, queries or material for the next edition of *Grapevine* should be emailed to grapevine@charltonresidents.net by 30 May 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 one issue, £30 for four. Panel ads single column 8cm x 8cm: £40 each for 1-4 issues, £35 each 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.



Trev triumphs again

Elliscombe Road's pub landlord Trevor Puddifoot has won yet another CAMRA trophy for his River Ale House. This year he scooped the Cider Pub of the Year for

South East London, making it his fourth Cider success. Trevor has also won Pub of the Year for South East London twice. Cheers, Trev!

DO YOU HAVE A GARAGE?

We're looking for somewhere to store a classic Land Rover.
Contact: Catherine on 07508 660263

Charlton Central Residents Association