



# KEEPING IT CLEAN ...



*Ruth Yeo at work on greening a patch in Inverine Road*

In May 2009, CCRA launched its first clean-up day. The event, our first ever Community Day, took place in response to a residents' survey that CCRA had undertaken that year. While at that time around 95% of respondents considered Charlton a good place to live with plenty of green space and good transport links, the greatest sources of dissatisfaction were litter and waste spilt from bins, fly-tipping and dog fouling.

There were also concerns about bins not being returned to people's properties after collection. Residents commented that bins left on the pavement were a hazard for those with buggies or mobility aids, or impaired vision.

Fourteen years and has there been progress?

We still have our green spaces and transport links. And most of us would probably agree that this is a friendly place to live. However, there are still widespread concerns about many of the same issues such as litter, fly-tipping and bins left far from properties.

At that time, the council stepped in and helped with bulk waste collection and for a time litter was cleared more regularly.

But, currently, like many others, Greenwich council is strapped for cash. That means that if we want to enjoy our area it's even more important to participate in the big clean-up.

If you'd like to help improve our environment, please join in at St Richard's Hall in Swallowfield Road on Saturday 1 July between 10 and 10.15am.



*Blast from the past: Len Weir and David Gayther enjoy volunteers' free lunch after morning clean-up in 2009*

You will be allocated to a street and you will be able to pick up equipment to clear litter. The clean-up could include clearing weeds and tidying the base of trees. You might prefer to organise a working group for your own street. Or tidying the green patches in Inverine Road and Nadine Street might be more your cup of tea.

All volunteers are invited to join us for a free lunch in St Richard's Hall from 12.00 – leaving plenty of time to join the afternoon's Arts, Craft and Jumble Trail.

Please support this event. Together we can improve our environment and make this a friendly, safe and clean place to live.

**STOP PRESS:** The first clean-up was followed by a freecycle event. This year – as in the past two years – the afternoon will be taken up by the CCRA Arts, Craft and Jumble Trail. This will run from 2 to 5 pm and promises to be another huge success. See page 2 for more detail.



# CCRA Arts, Crafts and Jumble Trail

Join us on Community Day in the afternoon as well as the morning.

The Jumble Trail starts at 2pm and finishes at 5pm. There will be stalls in front gardens across the CCRA area as well as at St Richard's Hall, where you can have a delicious cream tea.

This event is a great way to support the local community and the talented individuals who offer art or handmade items, or are selling items to raise money for charity. It is also a good way to recycle items within a community. One person's



unwanted item could be another person's treasure.

If you have not yet registered your stall, call or text Jacqui on 07717742886, or send an email to [jumbletrail@charltonresidents.net](mailto:jumbletrail@charltonresidents.net).

We are also looking for any unwanted items, new or of good quality, for the CCRA table at St Richard's Hall or the CCRA Raffle. Drop off with Brenda at 49 Delafield Road, or Jacqui at 83 Swallowfield Road.

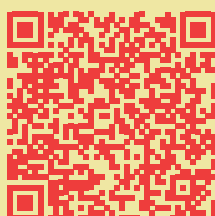
If you are able to help, even for one hour in the afternoon, we would appreciate help at St Richard's serving cream teas or assisting on the CCRA stall. Contact Jacqui on number above.

Finally, please can you let friends and family, as well as any local networks you are part of, know about the Trail.

## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Thanks to all the members who have renewed to date. We really appreciate your support. If you have not yet renewed you can do so using our online form at

[forms.gle/wfRh2HS94VvSsGS6A](https://forms.gle/wfRh2HS94VvSsGS6A), scan the code, or call or text Jacqui on 07717742886 to request a printed membership form.



*Jemima Austen measuring her plant*

## F and P: The countdown continues ...



Calling all children: it's time for our young residents to start planning their entries for CCRA's Flower, Craft and Produce Show on 9 September. There are two age categories: under 8s and 8-12 years old and both groups are free to enter.

This might be a good time to start or develop a new skill or interest such as photography. The 'Drawing of my family' category will encourage young children to focus on representation. Over 8s can enter the 'Drawing of a fox' – maybe checking books and photographs? Now is a good time for planting but do check on growing requirements so they'll be at their best in September.

Our food categories (Edible necklace, Decorated biscuit and Cake) are all fun activities. You could try making a necklace by threading marshmallows, cereal or crisp rings, or jelly sweets. Most children love cooking and biscuit decoration is not only fun but encourages design skills, hand control and artistic flair. Our cake-making category could be the start of an interest that ends on the Great British Bake Off! For more information, go to [www.charltonresidents.net](http://www.charltonresidents.net). All entries will be judged and positive comments made. There's something for every child and who knows, a prize might follow. Good luck!



# the **GREEN** page

## Fighting to keep your garden

In 1963, the first tenants moved into new council homes in the Vanbrugh Park estate, which you may well have walked past going from the Standard to the top side entrance to Greenwich Park. The design is unusual with garages underneath facing into the estate while the homes themselves are accessed from a broad raised walkway facing out. In front of the entrances is a hard surfaced front garden and from the very beginning residents introduced potted shrubs and flowers and benches, creating very attractive spaces, exactly as the architect had designed.

Earlier this year, after 60 years of people enjoying these small front gardens, the council ordered the removal of these garden items, arguing that responsibilities for health and safety, required clearing the spaces and giving unimpeded access to the homes. The residents produced a well set out petition, got support from some safety professionals and publicity in the national press. The petition received tens of thousands of signatures and we understand that an acceptable solution may be found allowing precious gardens to be retained.

Even small outdoor living spaces, with plants, flowers, bees, butterflies and the sound of birds, can make a huge contribution to our sense of wellbeing. So too does safety. But it is sad that the council sought to impose new guidelines without consultation, in such an inflexible and insensitive way.

## Walk the Tranquil City

The walking group recently followed a walk organised by Tranquil City (see page 11 of this issue). How often when taking a walk do we simply enjoy the pleasure of being out in the fresh air, or sharing time with a companion, seeing new or familiar places?

If asked specifically what aspect of this green space we liked or disliked: what would make it better; who else would enjoy being here or is it accessible to everyone? then a walk begins to take on a whole different perspective. Scrutinising a pleasurable experience need not detract from the enjoyment – in fact, it can enhance it, as our walking group discovered. Being invited to verbalise such thoughts brings them to mind, making them more memorable.

Tranquil City is a group of environmental professionals looking at how air pollutants, mental health, noise, etc can affect our quality of life in a city; they have produced a 'Tranquil Pavement' – a map of the many places where you can find a green and pleasant land across London. ([tranquilitycity.co.uk](http://tranquilitycity.co.uk)).

We believe that Tranquil City can help us to enjoy a better quality of life – and hope to carry an in-depth interview about the work of the organisation in our next issue.



**TREEMENDOUS!** You don't have to travel into the countryside to see fantastic trees. There's a wealth of natural beauty right on our doorstep. This beautiful horse chestnut stands on the corner of Canberra and Hornfair Roads in all its spring splendour. It's one of my favourite trees. Do you have a special tree in our area? Send a picture to Grapevine. We'd love to see 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*



# Greenwich Plan: councillor replies

In the January/February issue of 'Grapevine' (number 69), we published an article about Greenwich's corporate plan – *Our Greenwich*. One of our local councillors asked if we would allow her to write a response. We were delighted to accept her offer,:

The *Grapevine* article talked of the twenty missions grouped around five main themes of, People, Place, Economy, Communities and Organisation.

The author noted that the plan was more of a statement of direction than a list of concrete targets. To some extent that is true, in that the plan is a statement of direction, a list of missions we want to fulfil rather than a list of actions which we understand may need to develop over the years.

*Our Greenwich* is a high-level plan for the next four years that provides a blueprint for where we want to go as a Borough. The last few years have been some of the most unpredictable in recent memory and we need to take into account the changing landscape, the make-up and diversity of the borough,

and be ready to respond flexibly as things change. *Our Greenwich* was developed collaboratively with our communities, businesses and partners to give our Borough core missions we use to build an annual plan setting targets and aspirations for each mission, as well as setting out what actions we intend to take for each mission.

Actions taking us in the direction of fulfilling our missions will come each year – last year that included spending millions on expanding 'Greenwich Supports' with services such as advice hubs, community pantries, warm hubs in the winter – flexibly answering the community's needs.

Other actions started, or coming soon, include examples such as continuing the free school meals offer in the holidays; a mentoring programme

to support children transitioning from primary to secondary school; a new on-line, faster and more accurate reporting system for council home repairs; improving transport options for pedestrians and cyclists, and many more.

The plan will help Greenwich to best ensure that our resources are directed towards our strategic priorities with the roll-out of annual plans and new approaches to service planning across the Council – all these will have a direct and positive effect for residents. And officers and councillors from across the council are coming together to oversee and drive the programme.

**Jo van den Broek, Councillor  
Charlton Village and Riverside**

Watch this space (and Greenwich's website) for more ...

## Record-breaking fund-raiser for The Upbeats

The headlines down at the Valley are all about football. Not so much is heard about the club's commitment to community work covering health, education, diversity and inclusion and, of course, sports development. It's all down to the Charlton Athletic Community Trust.

One of their greatest success stories is The Charlton Upbeats – the club's disability programme for children and adults with Down's Syndrome, which recently announced the staggering results of this year's annual fund-raiser of £49,000!

This was the annual walk, a 9-mile hike from the team's training ground in New Eltham to The Valley via Charlton Lido.

They were joined



CHARLTON ATHLETIC COMMUNITY TRUST

at the start by first team manager Dean Holden. Walkers were welcomed at Charlton Lido by a large number of supporters, including The Upbeats team themselves, more fund-raising walkers and a Down's team from Everton

who completed the walk with them into the Valley.

At the ground the Upbeats challenged Everton's Down's team to two games with each team winning one.

This year's record-breaking donations

will enable the Trust to continue to support The Upbeat's wide programme of events such as the weekly Saturday training with its dedicated staff and coaches.

One of their annual events that needs financial support is

the Pan Disability Tournament in Belfast, this month.

Long may the Charlton Athletic Community Trust continue its community programme and we thank them for all their efforts.



# What's Superloop?

Alongside pushing for the introduction of ULEZ throughout the outer London boroughs, the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, has now come forward with fresh plans to encourage people to leave their cars at home or give them up altogether.

The aim of Superloop is to link major stations outside inner London with fast new electric buses not stopping at many points in between but including some hospital sites. It should give travellers more varied options for journeys around the capital, rather than going into town and out again or getting to a main line station much closer to their destination.

Plans are far from advanced in some corners of outer London but it is not intended that the same vehicle will go right round the whole loop; seven different sections will link up and there will be local consultations on the proposed routes over the next few months.

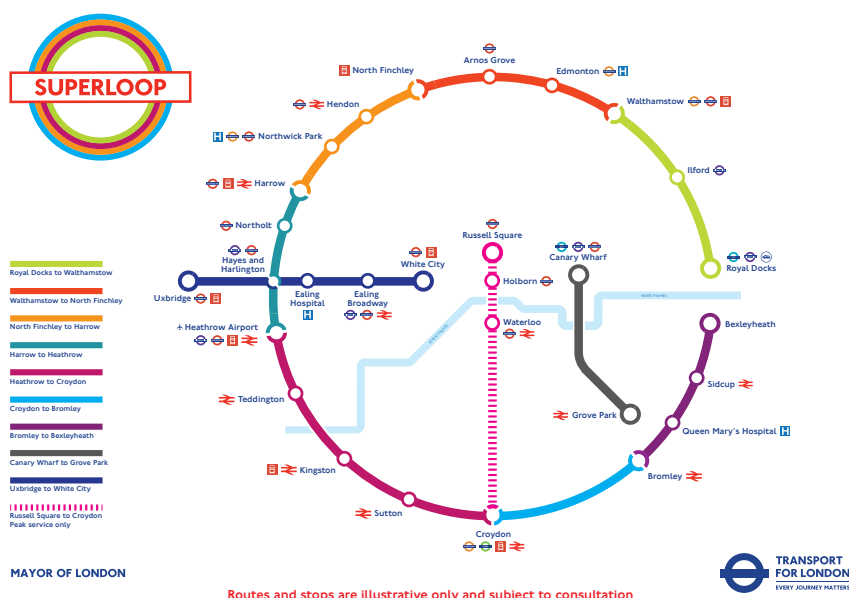
Very much targeted at outer London, the route in the south-east does not include any Greenwich station. The current plan goes

from Bromley station, stopping at Bickley, Chislehurst, Queen Mary Hospital and Sidcup station and on to Bexleyheath.

Extending it to Abbey Wood would make great sense, providing a link to the main line into the city and out to Dartford and beyond, a direct link to the Elizabeth line, and via Woolwich to the DLR and many parts of East London. And if it happens, the DLR extension to Thamesmead. Abbey Wood station is in Greenwich, but just across the road from Bexley.

Improvements in public transport in that area could have direct impact in the south and east of our borough but could change the minds of some who currently commute through Charlton in their own cars.

So, though Greenwich may not be consulted as an inner London borough, we could have a very real stake in whether Superloop gets firmly established. We should lobby our councillors and MPs to press the case to continue the loop to Abbey Wood.



## Antigallican update

There is still no sign of a public house being reintroduced on the ground floor of the Antigallican at the bottom of Charlton Church Lane, and the old bar has been removed.

As we reported earlier in the year this was an essential part of the successful planning application for its redevelopment.

The Antigallican has been a public house, and

in some shape or form, has been around for well over two centuries.

The hard-pressed enforcement team in the planning department at the council has followed up the CCRA request to investigate why this has not happened.

Two officers visited the building in early April and met the owner – they considered that at that time there was a breach of planning control.

The case has been passed to the senior enforcement officer, who is likely to seek further information from the owner, who could be invited to indicate how the breach could be remedied, which presumably would mean re-opening a public house on the ground floor.

The council have promised to keep CCRA updated as the investigation proceeds.

## It was an exciting day in Sundorne Road!



Grapevine young reporter, **Lana Lucy's** story of the month

One normal day of the week we were all hanging out together at home. Well, we were all doing our own thing but we were together.

Then mum went to the kitchen to get a glass of milk and just when she opened the fridge something flashing caught her eye. It was the 380 bus in Sundorne Road! I ran over to the window and saw that she was not joking. But soon the 380 reversed back onto the usual route.

I was even more surprised when I saw two police horses through the window! They were brown and beautiful. Later that day the ice cream van came onto Sundorne Road too. I had a rocket ice lolly covered in chocolate with strawberry underneath.

That was an exciting day in Sundorne Road!!



# Getting to know our Charlton

Charlton Neighbourhood Forum's inaugural walk set off from the Old Cottage Coffee Shop in Charlton Park on Saturday 13 May, headed for Hornfair Park via the Old Blue Cross Pet Cemetery.

There were 20 of us: 16 adults, three children (two on scooters) and one very well-behaved dog. Two ward councillors joined us: Lakshan Saldin who is a Charlton Forum committee member and ward councillor for Charlton Hornfair, and Gary Dillon, who is a ward councillor for Charlton Village and Riverside. The walk, which took about an hour and a half, was led by Charlton Forum committee members Lakshan and Clare Loops and two other committee members attended. There were also three members of Friends of Hornfair Park on the walk and everyone who came along had a connection with Charlton.

Some people were not aware of the pet cemetery and several had not been to Hornfair Park. When we reached Hornfair Park we walked around the facilities there and spoke about the



potential of the changing rooms building that had been built in 2012 as part of the London Olympic legacy. This facility has only been used a handful of times and could be repurposed for the park, perhaps with public toilets and a cafe. The Friends of Hornfair Park will discuss further and Charlton Neighbourhood Forum will provide support to progress this. We then walked back to Charlton Park.

We plan to hold these walks exploring our environment monthly, on the second Saturday of the month. The next is scheduled for Saturday 8 July at 11am. Details to follow at: [bit.ly/CNF-news](http://bit.ly/CNF-news)

# The toy library needs your help...

Charlton Toy Library is a small registered charity based at Charlton House. We are looking for volunteers to help us run our services for children aged 0-5 and/or to become trustees of the charity.

If you are prepared to commit some hours every month, are a good team player, and are interested in helping your local community, please get in touch!

You could help out at our stay-and-play sessions and/or at fund-raising events. We also need volunteers with professional



skills in IT, finance, communications, HR, fund raising and working with very young children.

We welcome interest both from those interested in regular volunteering and those interested in joining the group of trustees who run the charity.

For more information please visit [charltontoylibrary.org.uk](http://charltontoylibrary.org.uk) or email [info@charltontoylibrary.org.uk](mailto:info@charltontoylibrary.org.uk)

## Noise? What a nuisance!

Summer is fast approaching, and we can sometimes see an increase in noise nuisance, especially where people are playing music loudly, but there always needs to be a certain amount of give and take. If you're affected by noise nuisance, try:

- Speaking to your neighbour, calmly as they might not know they're causing a nuisance.
- Keeping a noise diary, Note times, dates, what's causing the noise and what impact the noise is having on you.
- Recording what happens on the Noise App at [thenoiseapp.com](http://thenoiseapp.com).
- Reporting noise to the Council's Community Protection Team on 020 8921 8166.

Neighbourhood Watch street co-ordinators are always happy to offer advice and support. Let's make it a fun summer, and together, let's tackle noise nuisance.

# Two hour free parking should be retained

Dear Grapevine

As is the case in some other inner London boroughs, the Council seems to be planning to cover the whole borough with parking zones. This has some merit as a strategy to encourage walking, cycling and the use of public transport. But many, especially those who are elderly and/or have mobility problems, will

want to use cars to visit friends and relations, and businesses will continue to need vans for deliveries and other services. So, the two-hour free parking should be retained in most places.

Bank holiday weekends are times when many people visit friends and relations with a car full of children, luggage and even the family dog. They are also the

times when repairs are being carried out on the railways and transport services are cut or reduced. At the moment, free parking is only permitted on Christmas Day and Boxing Day. Why not make bank holiday weekends free? The very substantial extra income from parking zones would more than cover any loss from doing this and wardens could have a long weekend as well.

**Name and address supplied**





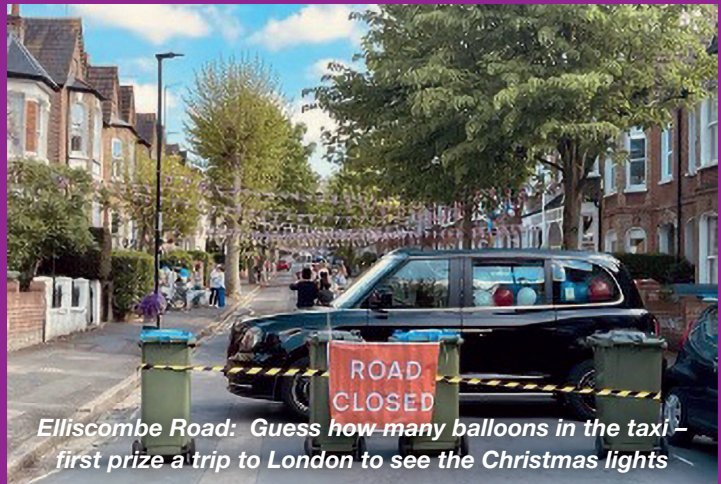
# CORONATION STREET PARTIES



*Inverine Road tug of war*



*Long live the King and thank heaven for Elliscombe Road!*



*Elliscombe Road: Guess how many balloons in the taxi – first prize a trip to London to see the Christmas lights*



*Inverine Road party*





**Michael John**  
Partner at Conran Charlton

## Modernising an Older Property

Period properties are an attractive proposition for buyers, and with good reason. Who doesn't want to live in a home that's filled with ornate, original features, with every room infused with history? But period homes aren't always compatible with our modern ways of living. Here are a few ways to modernise an older property that celebrates its original features without compromising your living experience.

### Upgrade the lighting

Clever lighting can completely transform a home, turning an uninviting space into something cosy and atmospheric. It also offers the additional benefit of making rooms appear larger by brightening up the space without losing that all-important character of an older home.

### Add automation technology

Just because you have a period property, doesn't mean you need to rely on a dated way of living. Updating and modernising your home is about more than just making cosmetic changes. You need to incorporate technology that will make your home more convenient, secure and comfortable.

A smart home system can enhance every element of your property, from monitoring security systems to setting alarms, dimming lights and maintaining the temperature of your home.

### Replace outdated features

You need to strike the right balance between retaining those characteristic period features and replacing the outdated elements that keep your home stuck in the past. An ornate Victorian fireplace surround is a feature you want to retain because it's an indication of the date of the property that will entice buyers in the future. But old electrical systems, tired flooring and awkward layouts that don't work for modern living simply make your home look worn out and shabby.

### Embrace open-plan living

Open-plan living is a modern way of laying out a home but it's one that suits contemporary life. It creates more space, is perfect for socialising and entertaining, and makes for a stylish change to your home. It's one of the most effective interior design choices you can make to modernise a home, instantly transforming a period home into a contemporary space.

### Remove carpets and showcase floorboards

Carpets may be insulating and warm, but they're also difficult to maintain and can make your home look more tired and older than it needs to. An older home is likely to have carpets, but by taking them out and renovating the floorboards underneath (providing they're in good condition) is an easy way to make your property easier to clean, long-lasting and more modern in its appearance.

### Give your kitchen a refresh

Kitchens are often cited as the heart of the home but because they're so well-used, they're often the area that looks the most dated and worn. Making superficial tweaks to a kitchen can work wonders in giving it a new lease of life without it costing a fortune. From new tiled splashbacks that make a kitchen more practical to adding new hardware to sinks and cupboard doors and painting cabinets to freshen up the material, you can quickly change the look of a kitchen to bring it into the modern age without you needing to completely rip it out and start again.

An older property offers so many advantages for a buyer or an investor, from an opportunity to make a bigger profit in the long term to being able to put your own stamp on an outdated home and enjoy the characterful features that older homes have to offer. These tips make it easy to transform an outdated property into something contemporary and stylish, without compromising your budget in the process.

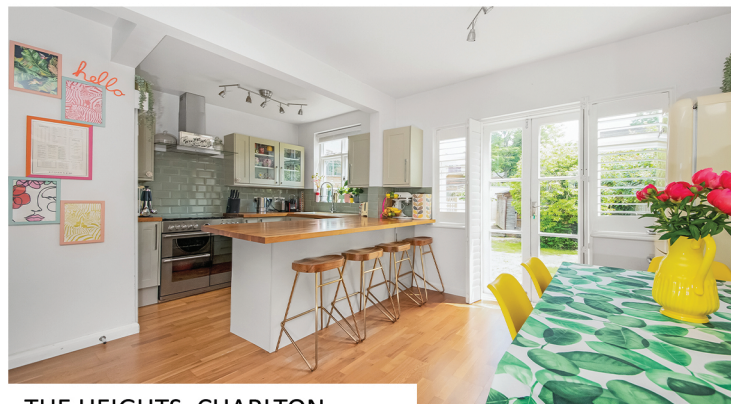
**BROCKLEY | FOREST HILL** 020 8629 8164  
**CHARLTON | WESTCOMBE PARK** 020 8293 0454  
**LEE | ELTHAM** 020 8378 5450  
**GREENWICH | BLACKHEATH** 020 8312 8312  
**ASSOCIATED PARK LANE OFFICE** 020 7409 4693  
**LAND AND NEW HOMES** 020 8658 4642  
**LETTINGS MANAGEMENT DEPT** 020 8312 8316  
**MORTGAGE ARRANGING DEPT** 020 8528 2251  
**conranestates.co.uk**

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a refreshing change



**PARK DRIVE, CHARLTON**  
OFFERS OVER £675,000

Remodelled and refurbished, this super semi-detached family home offers modern open-plan living inside, with a lovely garden to the rear perfect for alfresco dining! EPC: D



**THE HEIGHTS, CHARLTON**  
GUIDE PRICE £625,000- £650,000

You can't help but feel at home in this bright and spacious 1930s house with a fabulous breakfast bar, two sinks in the bathroom and a lovely green garden. EPC: D



**BRAMSHOT AVENUE, CHARLTON**  
ASKING PRICE £650,000

This terraced house offers huge potential to improve and extend to create the perfect family home in the ideal location for schools, commuting and amenities. EPC: D



**HORNFAIR ROAD, CHARLTON**  
GUIDE PRICE £425,000

An ideal first-time purchase offering a modern interior, a pretty, sunny garden and a perfect location! EPC: C



## CHARLTON LANE, CHARLTON OFFERS OVER £750,000

"We have enjoyed living in our period house in Charlton which has been our spacious family home for more than 25 years. It has wonderful bay windows to the front which offers plenty of light into a well-proportioned double reception room where we have reinstated attractive original features.

We have remodelled the kitchen, further enhancing the natural light with skylights and adding a downstairs washroom. It is now an excellent space for gatherings with large double doors leading onto a patio and steps up to a garden with shrubs and flowering plants. We have also recently redecorated throughout and added a new driveway for off-street parking at the front of the property where we

have views towards Maryon Wilson park.

There are good local transport links with Charlton Station a walk away and the new Elizabeth line. We have Charlton Village nearby with a convenient selection of shops and Charlton House. There is easy access to large green spaces and parks as we are on the green chain walk and we are very fortunate to have one of the few London lidos with sports facilities also on our doorstep. We have considered ourselves lucky to be part of this friendly neighbourhood."

EPC: D





# How happy is my valley?

... A view from the terraces

## New owners at the Valley

### What does the future hold this time?

Ever had that feeling we've been here before? For long suffering Charlton fans, it will come as no surprise to find the club has new owners – the fourth in four years. In an announcement made earlier this month it was revealed that an Anglo-American consortium called SE7 Partners has taken over.

Chief amongst them is Charlie Methven, a former director of Sunderland. From the US, billionaire financier Joshua Friedman and Gabriel Brenner head the team. Breaking the news, club CEO Peter Storrie said: "Our target is a top six finish next season for the men's team and further progression for the women."

Pie crust promises, as we know, are easily made and easily broken. Manager Dean Holden has said that he has been promised money to recruit well and that he is already on the hunt for his dream team.

Crongers fussed that the spondulix is forthcoming because another mediocre season in Division One is not really acceptable for such a large club. We finished tenth, not a bad result for Holden who only took over in December when we were floundering in the lower half of the table. Holden's attacking style of football has pleased the fans and produced some good results, most notably a 6-0 drubbing of Shrewsbury on April Fool's Day.

But the tables were turned just two weeks later at the Valley when high-flying Ipswich put us to the sword in a 0-6 defeat that really showed the difference in class. They looked like a side destined for the championship and they were duly promoted shortly after with a total of 98 points. Champions Plymouth finished with 101 points. Our final tally? Sixty two points – 15 short of the play offs but nowhere near good enough for promotion.

It remains to be seen whether we can close that gap by August and make a serious challenge next season. There is hope. We have an Academy full of talented young players – 11 of whom were in the squad for the final game. Miles Leaburn has committed to Charlton for another season, a vital signing since we have had to say goodbye to superstar loanee Jesurun Rak-Sakyi, top scoring winger and Player of the Year – even though he came from Palace. Speedy winger Corey Blackett-Taylor will also stay. If he can remain fit then he will be another deadly threat out on the wing. We have Chuks Aneke still with us. As fragile as porcelain yet built like an outhouse door, Chuks only managed thirteen starts



**It's the Rak and Rach show! Passionate Charlton fan Rachel Smith from Elliscombe Road gets her hands on the Player of the Year trophy and shares a special moment with the Player of the Year ... Jesurun Rak-Sakyi at the annual awards ceremony at the club last month. The 20-year-old loanee from Crystal Palace scored 15 goals and appeared in 42 games over the season. Club captain George "Dobbo" Dobson was runner up.**

this season and several times left the field again shortly after. When fit he is our most dangerous player. Another invaluable remainder is captain George "Dobbo" Dobson, runner up for Player of the Year and a man who gives everything to every game. It speaks volumes for his commitment that he chalked up the most tackles in the league.

Our first pre season games are only a month away, so there is precious little time for recruitment – and for Holden to shape the team he hopes can make the breakthrough.

At the conclusion of the final game, a 2-2 draw away at Cheltenham, Holden was pulling no punches about the squad. He said: "Collectively we were not good enough and not fit enough. We have to be fitter next season because my intention is to finish as champions." Bold words. Let's hope they bear fruit. Crongers fussed. COYR's.

### Women just miss top three

Charlton Women's team had a solid season and just missed out on a top three finish seeing City Lions (Millwall) take the third spot. Head coach Karen Hills praised her side and is hoping for even better things next season.





# On the Grapevine ...

## Singing Group

Our Monday sessions started again after the Easter break, though we had several bank holidays to avoid. In June we resume our fortnightly sessions, but after that we'll have a break during July and August before coming back together in September. 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 returned to Cattleya on May 21 and will be back again in June, when we hope to include guest appearances from one or two of our regular singers, including Hope Augustus. We'll take a break over July and August, but expect to be back there again in September. 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

Come and join us and meet local people who share your interest in this timeless craft. Not only do we knit but we also natter and eat cake – all are top quality. We meet in St Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road, – 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm on Tuesdays: 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. From beginner to expert – all are welcome. Whilst we specialise in charity knits you are always welcome to come along with your own project. You don't have to sign up to every session but can 'pop in' whenever you have time.

## Walking Group

Rough winds certainly did blow the darling buds of May, especially on the morning of our walk in and around Peckham, but soon after arriving there the sun came out and put a whole different complexion on everything!

We set off for Peckham to join a tried and tested south London environmental group called Tranquil City who posed the question: How can the design of green spaces promote nature connection and enjoyment? A dry and possibly complex question until we found ourselves amongst a group of others with equally quizzical expressions and set amongst said green spaces but enjoying the sun after a long, cold winter.

Our route, unknown to us before going, was from Peckham High Street along the route of, what was, the Surrey Canal but finding some surprisingly lovely spots to enjoy. For those of us who had not been to Peckham

for a long time, it came as a delightful surprise that the local authority had adapted some dull areas into attractive and interesting pockets of green. We passed through tiny green squares, and spacious areas like Burgess Park and ended up at Elephant Park.

For more information about Tranquil City see page 3. If you'd like to join the walkers contact Jill ([jillmo@btinternet.com](mailto:jillmo@btinternet.com)) or come along to Charlton Station on Sunday 9 July at 10.00am.

## Book group

May's read was *Glory* by NoViolet Bulawayo. Borrowing from Orwell's *Animal Farm*, it portrays the tempestuous political history of Zimbabwe. All the characters are animals. Group members gave it a very mixed reception – despite it being an acclaimed Booker nomination. To be fair, it is not a page-turner but nonetheless has some moving scenes, as when Destiny (a goat) returns to Zimbabwe after having been tortured, to find that her mother had been similarly tortured during an earlier coup – a fact that had never been shared and a source of great grief to them both. But there is also humour in the satirical portrayal of politicians' greed and hubris.

We're giving ourselves an easier time in June, reading Barbara Kingsolver's *Demon Copperhead*. This book is based on Dickens' *David Copperfield* – portraying the poverty, not of Victorian England, but of Appalachian communities in Virginia. Like *Glory*, it portrays both sadness and wit.

If you are interested in the group contact Linda on 020 8858 7377.



131 WOOLWICH ROAD

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

## Dates for your diary

### Community Day

Saturday 1 July  
See pages 1 and 2 for full details



### Flower, Produce and Craft Show

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



### CCRA AGM and Quiz night

Saturday 7 October  
St Richard's Hall

### Christmas Fayre

Saturday 9 December  
St Richard's Hall,  
Swallowfield Road

## GRAPEVINE

Comments, feedback, queries or material for the next edition of *Grapevine* should be emailed to [grapevine@charltonresidents.net](mailto:grapevine@charltonresidents.net) by 7 August 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.

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## THUMBS UP



To the discreet staff at Charlton Station who quietly tidy up the Community Garden area as well as carrying out all their other duties. Very public spirited!

## THUMBS DOWN!



To the thoughtless fly tippers who dumped a sofa on the approach to Warren Walk steps behind Coombe Lodge. Sofa, so bad.



*Keen gardeners snapping up bargains at one of Charlton Community Gardens' "front garden" sales.*

## Charlton's keen gardeners

Charlton Community Gardens' plant sale this year was a great success, raising £520.90 that will be used to replace broken planters at the station and to continue developing the Charlton Park orchards and garden. The plants that we didn't sell were taken up to the Charlton

and Blackheath Amateur Horticultural Society plant sale on Sunday 21 May. This was a hugely successful event and a significant proportion of the £2,000 plus that they raised will go to the local hospice. So thanks to all those who supported them.

**Charlton Central Residents Association**