



WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS!



Christmas is a special time for very many of us, and for many years Mimi and Michael have been making it extra special for those of us who face a Christmas alone by hosting a festive feast with Christmas presents for them at the Old Cottage Café in Charlton Park.

They are planning this year's Christmas lunch and are asking you, as local residents, to knock on your neighbours' doors to find out if they would be spending their Christmas alone and would like to join others in the same situation to celebrate together.

Mimi and Michael, who have run the café for 11 years, have donated to many local charities, including the Greenwich and Bexley Hospice, and donated money left in the kitty to the Greenwich Mayor's Charity Appeal. In the past, kind visitors to the café made donations throughout the year to fund the event.

* To contact them: mamisugiyama@aol.com or: 077 3792 2792



CCRA carol singers in 2021

CCRA CHRISTMAS FAYRE – SATURDAY 9 DECEMBER 2-5PM

Support your local craft-makers

The Yuletide Café will be open offering teas, coffees, mulled wine and minced pies

Our Christmas Fayre is fast approaching. There will be stalls selling handmade cards, gifts and Christmas decorations as well as a Tombola. There will also be the CCRA Raffle with the traditional, and much coveted, Christmas Hamper as well as other fabulous prizes.

If that's not enough, the CCRA Singers will

entertain us with festive songs. Hope to see you there.

● We would be very grateful for any donations for the Christmas Hamper or the raffle. We'd also love to receive mince pies on the day. Donations can be handed to Jacqui, 83 Swallowfield Road, or Brenda 49 Delafield Road.

STOP PRESS: Carol singing on Monday 11 and Tuesday 12 December in local streets.
For more information see local noticeboards, Facebook or CCRA website (charltonresidents.net)

Community Café for Charlton

September saw the launch of the new Community Café, CCRA's latest venture, in collaboration with the Charlton Benefice. The café is open on the last Tuesday of the month (28 November & 19 December) between 2pm and 4pm in St Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road.

The Community Café is a 'drop in' with a warm space for a cuppa, cake and conversation. In addition, you can bring along your knitting, crafting etc. or play a board game with neighbours.

We have some old

favourites such as chess, cards and Scrabble, but you can bring along your own favourite game and introduce it to others.

The Café also has provision for the youngest members of our community. We have a play space for young 'uns to play while their grown-ups indulge themselves with the best (and cheapest) coffee in town. Come and join us at the Community Café.

All are welcome, so come along and meet your neighbours.



Lily Gagi and Annie Galloway enjoy a cuppa at the Community Café

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Many thanks to all our members for your support in 2023. We cannot do what we do without you. You have helped to put the community in our community.

Enclosed with this Grapevine is our Membership form for 2024. With this form you can renew or join CCRA. Completed Membership forms and/or payments should be returned to 52 Inverine Road.

Workshop discusses wildlife, woodlands and wasteland

Green spaces and the natural environment ... was the topic under discussion at the first of a number of community planning workshops, held at St Richard's Church Centre, on Saturday, 14 October.

We learned a lot about our surroundings; from the River Thames to the north to Shooters Hill Road to the south, west to the A2 and east to the boundary of Woolwich, Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the Royal Artillery Barracks.

Many ideas were discussed and issues raised, including linking green spaces, access along the River Thames, wildlife corridors, the best use of wasteland, inaccessible woodland

and identifying little-known amenity spaces. There was also discussion of the importance of street trees, and which areas in Charlton could do with some trees being planted.

The workshop ended with several annotated maps that will be consolidated for further discussion with residents and will form part of our evidence when it comes to writing the Charlton Neighbourhood Plan.

Thank you to all who contributed. Our next workshop will focus on local facilities and services, places to play and to come together as a community. Details to be announced.

Charlton Forum Officers [*Reproduced from the Charlton Forum Autumn Newsletter*]



ST RICHARD'S CHURCH
CENTRE SE7 7NR

LAST TUESDAY
OF THE MONTH 2-4PM

CCRA & CHARLTON
ST RICHARD'S

GRAPEVINE

Comments, feedback, queries or material for the next edition of *Grapevine* should be emailed to grapevine@charltonresidents.net by Monday 22 January 2024. 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.

Save Our Swan

Future far from clear, but campaign to save pub is gathering strength



The campaign to save the White Swan pub in Charlton Village is gathering strength: a petition to protect the pub from redevelopment and to restore it, as part of a wider campaign to bring life back to the Village, closed recently with more than 1,200 signatures.

Campaigners hope Greenwich Council will block two applications by property development owners Mendoza, who are based on the Isle of Man. They want to redevelop the site as a block of flats with a shop beneath. They have permission to build a house at the rear of the premises.

The building is listed under a community asset order but that has

not stopped it becoming a derelict ruin inside.

The building has been deteriorating ever since it closed in March 2020, just before the Covid lockdown. Since then, it has become a monument to theft and vandalism. Squatters reduced the interior to squalor and recently a cannabis factory was discovered in the bar.

Campaigners, who want the premises to have a strong arts and music remit, say it will cost between £300,000 and £400,000 to restore the White Swan to its former glory and it is understood there have been inquiries, but it is believed the owners have no

desire to see the building restored as a pub.

Interest groups continue to search for ways to save the White Swan and it is hoped that an organisation set up as a charity could apply for a levelling up fund grant of up to £250,000.

Greenwich Council might be persuaded to assist financially, and local supporters of the White Swan will be asked to donate to make up any shortfall in a bid to acquire the freehold.

The pub's future is far from clear, but it is hoped the groundswell of support in Charlton can lead to a time when the White Swan will once again open its doors to the public.

Change our landline telephone

Landline telephone services are being updated to the end of 2025 and the end of 2025 going digital which means you will no longer need a telephone wire to your home. Your telephone company should contact you before the change to let you know when they will make the change. For those

should supply you, please reposition comma

if you don't choose to take up a broadband service. However, you may be encouraged to have a mobile which could be useful but will cost more. In most cases you can keep your existing number and nearly all existing handsets will work with the new system. The changeover has started locally for some of those with broadband, but it may still be some time before they get to you.

Don't be rushed into quick decisions; if you have any doubts get advice first.

■ This brief note is based on more extensive guidance from AgeUK. They offer free advice every day of the year on 0800 678 1602 from 8am-7pm.



Re 'ULEZ saves lives' (Grapevine 72)

I am sceptical that valid statistics can determine that ULEZ significantly provides cleaner air or any benefit to quality of life for Londoners.

However, it's evident that: The millions of public pounds implementing ULEZ should be better spent on needy issues. Too many people paying the ULEZ tax can ill afford the cost that curtails their quality of life so severely, carers, older people etc. Many small businesses are suffering lost trade and increased costs.

The market value of a standard car more than 15 years old is likely near the cost of a major repair on it. At best ULEZ is 'the straw' that forces disposal. The scrappage scheme cannot be administered in any sense equitably. It is subject to arbitrary decision-making.

There are many, many other bad unintended consequences now and likely in future from implementing ULEZ and it won't save any lives. It's badly defined, unnecessary legislation, disruptive of how people want to live and has aroused the anger of many. No, the Mayor should not get credit for undemocratic actions and wasted public resources.

ULEZ expansion – useless it doesn't do what it says on the tin! **Brian Kriss**

■ At the end of October, the GLA issued a first month report on the effect of introducing ULEZ in Outer London. It said that after one month, in the whole of London, the compliance rate for vehicles was 95.3% compared to 91.6% in June 2023. They will provide a preliminary report on pollution levels after six months and a full analysis after a year. The London Mayor is offering help to people in funding the upgrade to vehicles. We would welcome further correspondence on this matter.

Match day parking likely to prove controversial

New Charlton parking zones are likely to be introduced before Christmas: the new CS zone very close to the station and the

which could be introduced at the same time.

On the 20 or so days a year, when Charlton are playing at home, restrictions will extend beyond the current end time of 6.30pm until 9 pm on Sunday and Bank Holidays as well as all other days. And on any match day, the

free parking will only be allowed in bays marked 'free parking'.

This could hurt local people as much as travelling fans.

Friends with a car just popping in will need a permit, as will the carer making a half-hour visit to an elderly person.

A party on a Saturday match

a real money spinner for the council!

Charlton Athletic have objected to the plan, claiming it would reduce attendances and harm them financially, since a high proportion of supporters live in Bexley and Bromley or further out into Kent some distance from stations and with few buses.

Over time we do need to reduce car use and encourage public transport.

But 20 days a year when no visitor or service company can park for free could become a precedent, the thin edge of a very long wedge. I hope this will not be rushed through.

■ PS Charlton are playing at home on New Year's Day.

please cut pic size to shift end of sentences under the ad to above 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



FLOOD RISK THREATENS RIVERSIDE DEVELOPMENT

In the early 1980s a section of the riverside walk between Anchor and Hope Lane and the Barrier was closed off because it was falling into the river. It was repaired and a few trees planted but it was not raised up. Since then, most of the long Greenwich waterfront has a newish higher wall and riverside walk.

Apart from the historical Greenwich waterfront, the big gap is between the Barrier and the yacht club, Charlton Riverside, which is precisely the section covered by the 2017 Masterplan. Flood risk was not given prominence in that plan, but it did warn against a piecemeal approach in dealing with flood protection. Yet, in assuming that individual site developers will be responsible for raising the level and strengthening their section of the wall, 'piecemeal' is what is on the cards.

As well as the possibility of the river wall being breached, dealing with surface water and local flooding from heavy rain is also an issue. We missed the worst of storm Ciarán in London, but we must expect more frequent destructive storms in future.

Many local people will remember what used to be Stones playing field being under water for much of the winter and large sums were spent in the past to protect properties in Atlas

and Derrick Gardens from underground water. Nothing's changed; there's still a lot of ground water down there on the riverside. A combination of very heavy rain and a breach in the old river wall could be disastrous, but with climate change it becomes ever more likely.

Almost as soon as the Masterplan was agreed, flood risk became a key issue; virtually the whole site is red on flood maps. The core plan for much of the new residential properties to be houses was discarded and 'flats' took over. It then became the reason for no residential accommodation on

the first two floors, and for demands to go well above the six storeys which was the maximum for most of the Masterplan area. This suited potential developers very well. Looking for ways to overcome flood risks were not seriously considered. It will be costly but completing the river wall and dealing with surface water on Charlton Riverside is essential to achieving a sustainable development. It is one reason why very little has happened on Charlton riverside in the last six years.

If 'piecemeal' site-by-site continues to govern the riverside development, it is not going to generate a mixed happy community. New sections of housing inserted into the existing decaying landscape will not work and the same goes for new employment. There are too many different site owners on the riverside to facilitate agreement on a flood and infrastructure plan.

We need a large part of the land to be brought together in single ownership, preferably the council. But on this, and on the flooding issues, we do need cooperation and resources from the Mayor and the GLA and where appropriate from central government. The vision in the Masterplan still holds good but it will not materialise if the need for flood protection is not confronted.



FROM LITTLE ACORNS ...
This magnificent oak towers over its neighbours in Maryon Wilson Park. Share your favourite tree – send a photo and description to Grapevine.



Musicians harmonise in a benefit concert for Ukraine

Central Charlton residents joined local singers and musicians, together with Ukrainian musicians on 11 November in St Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road, where they gave some beautiful and moving performances to help raise funds in honour of and support for the Ukrainian citizens still under fire in their home country.

The CCRA was delighted to welcome back Ukrainian harp duo Catherine and Elizabeth Rajhans, who played in the Ukraine concert last year, and they were joined by harpists Veronika Lemishenko (also from Ukraine) and Gabriella Dall'Olio, who also featured in last year's concert.

Chris Harrison was the musical director, at the centre of co-ordinating the event and the artistes.

The evening also included performances from local singer-songwriters Owen Morgan, Stephen Brayne and Flaming Zambuccas, as well as our own resident Band SE7, together with songs from Wendy Lopez and the CCRA Singers.

Please support this event: If you were unable to attend and would like to make a donation visit www.charltonresidents.net to find out how to donate online.



New trophies for flower

The competition was hot at this year's successful Flower, Produce and Craft show.

Entries included chocolate cakes, tables full of flowers and jams galore. We are grateful to the ladies of the Blackheath and Greenwich Women's Institute for their skilled judging and Fossdene

School for showcasing their children's artwork.

The 'Len Weir Perpetual Trophy for Best in Show' was won this year by Claire Keatch for her amazing, knitted blanket, which will be donated to the Queen Elizabeth's Hospital neo-natal unit. This year's new trophies



Who the devil is that?

Could be Halloween hero Debbie Joyce!

Spooky doings took place around Charlton on Halloween as more than 50 children took part in a Pumpkin Trail quest. Organised by Debbie Joyce helped by other residents, youngsters clad in chilling outfits roamed Elliscombe Road, Nadine Street and Gollogly Terrace with much trick or treating ensuing. Everyone, parents and children alike, had a great time and enjoyed the community feel of the experience.



Some of the talented prize winners (full list on the CCRA website)

Flowers and produce

for The Best Flower, The Best Craft Item and the Best Fruit and Vegetable went to Brenda Taggart for her dahlia; Maria Bloor for her porcelain Gingerbread Man and to Judy Wolfram for her tomatoes.

Visit www.charltonresidents.net for the full list of winners.

CCRA would like to thank

Conran's Estate Agents for publicising the event as well as our trophy sponsors: Len Weir, Mr Ming, The Village Greengrocer and Brenda Taggart.

Congratulations to all who entered the competition. If you didn't win this time, try again in 2024.

A century not out

Sunshine greeted Charlton's Park Runners on 9 September, as they celebrated their 100th event. More than 200 runners were in festive mood as they set off for their regular 5k circuits. Hundreds of runners, including many CCRA members, have now run thousands of kilometres around Charlton Park on Saturday mornings. Run director on the day Alice Newstead said: "It was great to see so many people out there enjoying themselves and keeping fit at the same time."

CCRA member Sarah Hornsey said: "It doesn't matter what your level is, everyone gets on and keeps the momentum going." Mimi from the Old Cottage Coffee Shop, who always turns out to cheer the runners round, donated 100 bottles of water to the cause.



Grapevine editor Bob Smith and Alice Newstead



Just the ticket!

A big smile from the elegant and efficient Yvonne Redman – everyone's favourite person at Charlton Station – after she heard the news that plans to scrap the 800 ticket offices across the nation had been cancelled.

Until the end of October Polish-born Yvonne was convinced she was out of a job, but a massive groundswell of public opinion against the closures convinced the Government to tell rail operatives to withdraw their plans.

Yvonne, who has been at Charlton for more than 20 years, is delighted. "I thought this was the end of the line for me," she said. "I didn't want to work anywhere else. I love my commuters here. They are like family to me. Now I shall be able to carry on looking after them. We are like an advisory service. We don't just sell tickets, we help people make the right choices.

Yvonne, who lives in Abbey Wood arrives at the station at 5.45am to open at six. In her time at Charlton, Yvonne has introduced a book-swapping scheme, persuaded her bosses to provide a bench for the elderly, and dispensed tea and sandwiches in times of need.

At Christmas her office is full of well wishers' cards. Keep up the good work, Yvonne! We are SO happy that you are staying.

The Pros and Cons of Updating Kitchens and Bathrooms Before Selling Your Home

Updating your kitchen and bathrooms before selling your home is a popular strategy to boost the property's sale price. But how much do these renovations really impact the value? While updates to these spaces can increase buyer interest and marketability, major overhauls require substantial investment that may not pay off.

What are the 'Pros' of renovating your kitchen and bathroom before sale?

Putting time and effort into key spaces in your home before you list it for sale can be a smart investment. A fresh, modern kitchen and or on-trend traditional bathroom can exert a strong appeal for homebuyers and can noticeably maximise your home's value. Consider the following benefits:

Increased buyer appeal

The kitchen and bathrooms are among the first rooms buyers look at. The fact is that new, stylish finishes make your home more attractive versus older, dated spaces that could do with some work.

Higher property value

Kitchen and bathroom remodels are ranked among the top home projects for return on investment; kitchen upgrades can add up to 10%, and an updated bathroom can add up to 5% to the value of your home.

Competitive edge

Outdated, tired kitchens and bathrooms can be a turn-off for today's buyers. Refreshing these rooms to match current trends in layout, finishes and fixtures makes your home more appealing.

Faster sale

With the added appeal, it is no wonder that homes with renovated kitchens and bathrooms tend to sell more quickly, versus homes needing significant updating.

Fixing functional flaws

Remodelling is the perfect opportunity to improve the functionality of your bathrooms and kitchen in terms of layout, storage, lighting and styling to appeal to today's buyers.

What are the 'Cons' of renovating your kitchen and bathroom before sale?

While kitchen and bathroom renovations can certainly add value, it would be a false assumption to think any improvement is worth making. There are also the following downsides to consider:

Major costs

Full kitchen or bathroom remodels easily cost tens of thousands of pounds or more. A return on the investment is by no means guaranteed.

Trends change

Today's hottest kitchen and bathroom trends may not have longevity; indeed they could look dated in just a few years.

Over-improvement risk

A shiny new kitchen or a blingy bathroom may attract buyers but going overboard with luxury finishes or high-end appliances risks 'over improving' within the context of your neighbourhood.

Disruption

Major kitchen and bathroom renovation works means having to live through weeks or months of dust, noise and mess, and with potentially no access to key amenities.

Unexpected issues

Once you start demolishing an old kitchen or taking out an old bathroom, problems can appear from nowhere. From leaky pipes to ancient wiring, mould or wood rot, you may find your renovation job getting bigger and more expensive than planned.

It's important to strike the right balance when renovating your kitchen or bathrooms before selling. Too little and your kitchen or bathroom may not make the impact you are hoping for, too much and you won't get your money back. The goal is a cost-effective refresh that gets top dollar, not a total transformation. With smart planning and strategic decisions, kitchen and bathroom updates can impress buyers without breaking the bank. Focus on purposeful refreshments that make the most impact on your budget.

Charlton

46 Charlton Church Lane, London, SE7 7AB
020 8293 0454
conranestates.co.uk



BRAMSHOT AVENUE, CHARLTON
GUIDE PRICE £650,000

If you're looking for a home to improve or extend and make your own, this terraced house could be the perfect choice! EPC: D



ELLISCOMBE ROAD, CHARLTON
GUIDE PRICE £775,000

Having been lived in by the same owner for over 60 years, this delightful end of terrace home is bursting with potential. EPC: D



LANSDOWNE MEWS, CHARLTON
GUIDE PRICE £750,000

Built to a high specification, this brand new four bedroom townhouse offers spacious living and a wraparound garden. EPC: B



RATHMORE ROAD, CHARLTON
GUIDE PRICE £595,000

This is an excellent property in an ideal location with lots of opportunity to upgrade and is offered chain free. EPC: D



SUTLEJ ROAD, CHARLTON OFFERS OVER £950,000

A very rare opportunity to purchase a beautiful, detached family house on a desirable residential road.

This modern home offer spacious flexible accommodation, with a large driveway to the front, a kitchen-diner, extended living room, downstairs bedroom/office with ensuite and a utility room.

To the rear is a westerly facing garden, ideal for afternoon summer sun. The house has three generously proportioned bedrooms plus loft, with the master bedroom boasting

walk in wardrobe and ensuite.

This is a fantastic opportunity to own a special house in a lovely spot. It has excellent primary schools, The Lido, Charlton Village, station and parks all so nearby.

Highly recommended.

EPC: D



How happy is my valley?

... A view from the terraces

Remember, remember the fifth of November, goes the saying. In Charlton we prefer to forget this year's festivities. Down at the Valley, Guy Fawkes night saw very few fireworks and even fewer celebrations as a deeply disappointing home side took on non-league locals Cray Valley Paper Mills in the FA Cup and only just avoided the humiliation of a first round exit.

Fielding a team far from the first eleven, manager Michael Appleton had hoped his league one players would make short work of these part-timers. Not so. Charlton went ahead early through a neatly worked move that saw skipper for the match Scott Fraser slot home. We faithful settled back for what we thought was going to be a romp. Instead, it nearly became a rout as Cray Valley turned passion into power and proceeded to teach us a lesson in commitment and energy.

They chased every ball and were quicker to the tackle as we defended deeper and deeper until the inevitable happened and they equalised. Appleton changed up in the second half bringing on his big hitting forwards. But it was too little too late. Our front men couldn't settle and squandered several chances to put the game beyond doubt. In the end it was a relief to hear the final whistle.

Appleton's post-match interview was a master class in understatement as he seethed over his team's performance. So it was with some trepidation that Charlton travelled to league leaders Portsmouth the following Saturday. Two key factors made the outcome intriguing.

1. Portsmouth were bundled out of the FA Cup in the first round; and

2. we haven't lost at Fratton Park since 2005.

And so it proved. Up against a team in unstoppable form, we fought out a well-earned 2-2 result and should have won if several of the shots on goal late on had found their target. This time Appleton was more effusive: "I'm proud of the boys," he said. "To come back twice was amazing. They put their bodies on the line." None more so than Man of the Match Ashley Maynard-Brewer who made at least seven blinding saves to deny Pompey.

His efforts cost us a goal as he rushed out to intercept an attack, clattered the on-rushing player and upended him unceremoniously. No one complained when the referee pointed to the spot. Portsmouth scored to go 1-2 ahead but enter, at 87 minutes, substitute Connor McGrandles making his return from long-term knee injury.

At 90 plus 3 the midfielder got on the end of a perfect floated cross and headed the ball between the keeper and the near post to equalise.

Earlier, the in-form Alfie May continued his excellent run of goals notching his twelfth with a goal from a seemingly impossible angle. The striker is now League One's leading scorer.

With sixteen games played Charlton are eleventh with 22 points having won six, lost six and drawn 4. After a disastrous season's start this has to be considered a good place to be.

Appleton's no-nonsense approach to the team seems to be working. Fitness levels are high, confidence is strong and there is a genuine sense of possibility about the club.

The manager makes no secret of the fact that he intends to strengthen the squad in the January window. There are several positions that need bolstering and we can expect to see the defence being shored up. Too often we have haemorrhaged goals and surrendered a win through silly mistakes.

With May, Leaburn, and Cory Blackett Taylor all in good form and Chuks Aneke a potential threat when he is not side-lined through injury, we are becoming a formidable fighting unit. Captain George "Dobbo" Dobson continues to direct like a maestro from the centre with back up from Scott Fraser, fit again after a spell out.

The signs are good, and we have to hope for a top six finish. We couldn't reach automatic promotion, could we? Crongers fished. COYRs.

■ Charlton put paid to Cray Valley's hopes of FA Cup glory with a convincing 6-1 victory in their first round replay on November 15. Two goals by Alfie May and a left-footed screamer by birthday boy and captain George Dobson put the game beyond the non-league aspirants. Charlton now face Gillingham in the second round.



THE RIVER
ALE HOUSE

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

On the Grapevine ...

Book group

In September, we had all enjoyed the atmospheric and lyrical *The Offing* by Ben Myerson. October's read (*The Ministry of Utmost Happiness* by Arundhati Roy) was met with mixed feelings – especially since her earlier book *The God of Small Things* is so acclaimed. Sebastian Barry's *In Old God's Time* is our choice for November. His writing is superb! In December we'll be reading *The Good Earth* by Pearl Buck. For more information contact Linda on 020 8858 7377.

Knit and Natter

We are delighted to report that the Knit and Natter group is still running, as strong as ever, but in a slightly different format. We are continuing to meet on the last Tuesday of the month (28 November and 19 December) between 2.00 pm and 4.00 pm in St Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road entrance. The knitting will go on as part of the newly opened Community Café (see page 2 for more details). We will still be providing advice on knitting with a focus on charity knits for good causes, but we are encouraging others to bring along their favourite crafts. With or without a craft – you're welcome to come along and enjoy a cuppa in a warm space with good cake and good friends. No need to sign up – just 'pop in' anytime during the session.

Charlton Community Gardens

More accolades for both the garden at Charlton Station and the Community Orchards plus the soft fruit and herb bed in Charlton Park, from London in Bloom.

We are delighted that both areas have been given Outstanding for the 'It's Your Neighbourhood' category and Gold Awards for the 'Our Community' category at the recent award ceremony. Thanks to you all for your help and support during the year.



Ruth Yeo (on the left wearing her CCG t-shirt) and Lynda Fean (on the right) being presented with the awards by a Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) official.

Walking Group

September's walk started at Slade Green Station. Who would believe that so close to home we'd find a real moat, the remains of a medieval house, and a seventeenth century tithe barn? We passed a river barrier (tiny in comparison to the Thames Barrier but still doing the same job) where the River Darent joins the Thames. As we joined the Thames Path we were amazed to see a seal basking at the water's edge with her pup not far away.

October's walk was set in the middle of the East End where we walked from Liverpool Street through the Huguenot area. We came across an exhibition by the controversial artist Christo. He is known for his 'wrapping' exhibits including the Reichstag and Arc de Triomphe – but this exhibition was on a much smaller scale. It can be seen at the Saatchi Gallery until 22 January.

Our next walks will be on 10 December and 14 January. As usual during the winter months, we'll meet at 10.30 at Charlton Station. For more information please contact Jill at: jillmo@btinternet.com

Singing Group

Much of our time recently has been focussed on preparing songs for the November's CCRA Concert. Now we're getting ready for the Christmas Fayre and two evenings of carol singing on 11 and 12 December. These will follow a similar pattern to previous years, where we stop at various locations around the CCRA area. To find out when we'll be singing near you, look for the schedule on Facebook, local noticeboards and the website. Then we'll have a break before we start up again in January. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Chris on 020 8858 7377 – or just come to one of our sessions.

Instrumental Music Group ('SE7')

We have been playing regularly at Cattleya since the summer. Our latest performance there was on 5 November and featured guest appearances from The Incognitos and Hope Augustus. We will be playing at Cattleya again before Christmas – watch our website and social media for details. 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.

CHARLTON TOY LIBRARY is a small registered charity based at Charlton House. We are looking for trustees and volunteers to help us run our services for 0-5 aged children. 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 people with professional skills such as 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 or email info@charltontoylibrary.org.uk

Dates for your diary

Charlton House Indoor Christmas Market

Saturday 2

December

For details see

[greenwichheritage.org/](https://greenwichheritage.org/events/lk-charlton-house-in-door-christmas-market)

[events/lk-charlton-house-in-door-christmas-market](https://greenwichheritage.org/events/lk-charlton-house-in-door-christmas-market)

CCRA Christmas Fayre

Saturday 9 December 2-5pm

St Richard's Hall

Further details on page 1

Charlton House: Immersive Family Holiday Mystery

Saturday

9 December



The Elf Who Stole Christmas

For details see

[greenwichheritage.org/](https://greenwichheritage.org/events/the-elf-who-stole-christmas-2023)
[events/the-elf-who-stole-christmas-2023](https://greenwichheritage.org/events/the-elf-who-stole-christmas-2023)

Carol singing

Monday and Tuesday 11 and 12 December

Coming to a street near you! Look for the schedule nearer the time on Facebook, local noticeboards and the website. Also see page 11

Christmas Afternoon Tea with Santa

Saturday 16 December

Filly's Tea Room's at Charlton House

Booking details available at greenwichheritage.org

THUMBS UP



... to the intrepid Charlton Community Gardeners who keep our green spaces neat and tidy and maintain the thriving garden at the station. Volunteers are always welcome.

THUMBS DOWN



... to gardens where vegetation gets in the way of people with mobility problems or people pushing buggies. Please trim back trees, bushes and trailing tendrils so that pedestrians can get along the pavement with ease.

Join your local Hatha Yoga Class

Saturdays 10am-11am at St. Richard's Church Centre, SE7 7NR

Info & booking: 07736916021

Instagram: [yogini.virginia](https://www.instagram.com/yogini.virginia)

The Village Greengrocers
RETAIL & WHOLESALE

GREENGROCER LOCAL BAKERY REFILLS

MONDAY TO SATURDAY 9-5PM, SUNDAY 10-4PM

020 8319 8611

HIGH STREET RETAILER OF THE YEAR 2020