

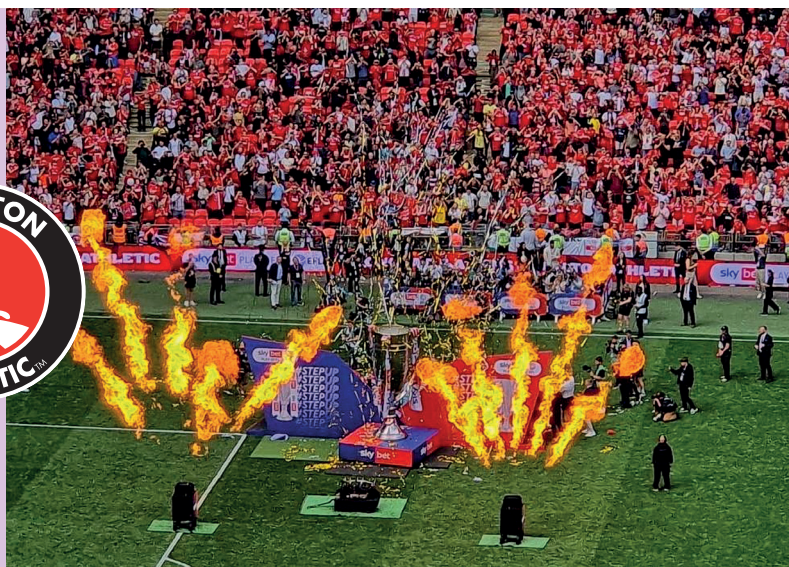
TEAMWORK ...

Congratulations to Charlton Athletic for gaining promotion to the championship after five years in League One.

As the picture shows fans were delighted at the 1-0 result at Wembley last month.

The roar of sheer joy could almost be heard back at the Valley in Floyd Road.

Full report: Page 6



... AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT!

That's how we do things in SE7. Especially in central Charlton where residents are just as committed to their neighbourhood as the club that bears the area's name.

We will all have the chance to show how teamwork, dedication and pride in our streets can make a difference when **CCRA's annual Community Day kicks off on Saturday 5 July.**

How can you help? We begin in the morning with a community litter pick. **Drop in to St Richard's Church Centre in Swallowfield**

Road any time between 10am – 12pm, to collect litter -picking equipment, and to let us know which street you want to help clear up. Everyone volunteering for this will be offered a complimentary cream tea at the afternoon's fayre, as a special thank you from

CCRA

But that's only half of the celebration of all things

community in Charlton. Rediscover the charm of yesteryear at CCRA's **Vintage Fayre**, a celebration of timeless style, nostalgia, and one-of-a-kind treasures. Held from **2pm – 5pm on Saturday afternoon at St Richard's Church Centre** this event showcases local vintage vendors, offering everything from retro fashion, jewellery and accessories to classic collectibles.

"We held a vintage fayre last year," said CCRA Chair Jonathan Sanders, "and it went brilliantly, so it really is back by popular demand. Everyone is welcome, and we're really looking forward to it."

Whether you're a seasoned vintage enthusiast or simply looking for something special, the fayre promises a fun afternoon. We'll be serving cream teas with homemade scones and cakes. And no event would be complete without one of our famous raffles.

Entrance is free to all.

**Let's put some teamwork into brightening up our neighbourhood
Join this year's litter pick on Saturday morning 5 July, from 10 o'clock
And then the Vintage Fayre from 2 o'clock**

Pressure is mounting on local low traffic schemes

Concern over the two local low traffic neighbourhood schemes (LTNs), which close roads in the morning and evening rush hours, one west of Greenwich Park, and the other to the east in Westcombe Park, continues to grow.

We have reported before that local residents in those areas were against the scheme but now some local businesses are reporting having been severely hit by a loss in trade and the consequences in neighbouring areas are becoming very clear.

Charlton is experiencing worse than usual congestion as a result of displaced traffic. Victoria Way and Charlton Church Lane, alternative routes to the closed off roads near the park, are particularly affected.

CCRA undertook a total of 74 individual counts of traffic near Fossdene school and Charlton station, some during March/June 2024, before the LTN schemes started, and some in February/March 2025 after full implementation.

Average counts showed that after the introduction of the LTNs, for traffic going down Charlton Church Lane vehicles increased by 9% between 7-8 am and by 16% between 8-9am

These figures don't properly reflect the situation when it was gridlocked

from top to bottom of the hill.

Going down Victoria Way between 8 -9am there was a marked increase of 34%, and in the evenings 3-4pm 39%, 4-5pm 39% and 5-6pm 40%.

The most striking change is the increase in the early evening rush hour coming up Victoria Way: between 3-4 pm 40%, 4-5pm 56% and 5-6pm 25%.

These are extremely worrying figures, especially in respect of air



quality and safety when crossing roads for children outside Fossdene School.

In May the council ran some public 'feedback' sessions. The event at Charlton House was poorly advertised and required pre-booking of limited tickets!

In the absence of the deputy leader, the Assistant Director of Transport was left to manage a barrage of difficult questions about the working and legality of the LTN schemes, the impact of displaced traffic, and whether

there were better ways of making the borough 'cleaner, greener and easier to move around' than improving one area at the expense of others. Answers to questions about monitoring traffic and air quality needed to wait until later in the year when council data could be expected. The current consultation has now closed.

Meanwhile CLEAR (Coalition for Liveable, Equitable and Accessible Roads), to which CCRA has given backing, has sought to bring together all those opposed to the local LTNs and has submitted a Statutory Objection. SOs must be considered before making a scheme permanent.

The objection covers failures in consultation, many procedural concerns including legal issues, and possible misuse of public funds. In early May, Lambeth Council lost in the High Court when West Dulwich Action Group mounted a challenge against their local LTN.

The court judgement emphasised Lambeth's failure to properly take account of the views of local residents. 67% of their residents were against that LTN. In Greenwich 79% were against the LTN's. It would be surprising if the council was not studying that judgement quite closely.

How to make children heroes of their own lives

Schooldays should be the best of our lives, so it's said, but for some young people that just isn't the case. Mental health issues, lack of confidence and uncertainty in a hard world can mean life is a tough ask for an increasing number of children.

While working in a South East London primary school, Elliscombe Road resident Tonya French saw the impact of these issues, recognised the problems but – more importantly – saw a way to significantly improve the quality of life

for children affected.

From this simple beginning Tonya has founded an organisation dedicated to getting kids back on track.

It's called 'Hero Self' and since its inception has been helping to significantly improve the lives of children in local schools.

Tonya is currently working with eight- to eleven-year-olds at Charlton Manor School, where the programme is seen as a resounding success.

Tonya was working

in a primary school as a drama teacher when the pandemic hit and she retrained as a hypno-therapist. She returned to school to teach drama and was asked to help with children with behaviour problems and provide confidence coaching.

"Because of my hypnotherapy training I was in a unique position to understand what was needed to help children and put together a programme," she says.

"That's the basis of Hero Self. "We help

children discover confidence and resilience within themselves using art and drama. The creative approach is already positively impacting young lives, giving the children the tools to overcome challenges and believe in their own abilities."

Tonya is drawing together a team of trained practitioners and the project is being rolled out in ten schools in Greenwich. The aim is to expand nationwide. To discover more contact Tonya at info@heroself.org

Down by the Riverside – possible progress?

Nearly eight years ago, in the autumn of 2017, a small CCRA group led by Jodie Coughlan went to the offices of Komoto in Victoria to discuss their proposals for new flats at Flint Glass Wharf, which is on the riverbank just upstream from the Thames Barrier.

In May 2025, the Planning Board finally agreed an updated version of those plans; our original comments on their application submitted in 2018 were included in a 341-page report in front of the committee.

However, all those years later, our criticisms, together with many others from different organisations and individuals still remained every bit as valid: too few family homes, not enough for social rent.

In phase one of the plan, which received full planning permission, 83 out of 142 flats are to be either studio or one-bedroom properties, with only 25 being 3-bedroom homes: not family friendly. The 'affordable' share is 27% and in phase 2, which was given outline permission for up to 358 flats, there will be a much lower figure: not a development to meet the desperate local housing need either.

This continues the pattern in most of the thousands of new homes built or approved along the riverside, and in Kidbrooke, Woolwich and Abbey Wood in the last decade. If only half of those had been 3 or 4 bedroom homes to rent at genuinely affordable prices we would be well on the way to solving the local crisis.

Granting planning permission does not mean work will start any time soon. The site is difficult for construction teams to access and no new road links are about to take place.

With no neighbouring development, it is unlikely many people would risk purchasing a home there. It's possible that having secured permission the site could be sold on to a potential developer. But it just might be the catalyst to start the long-awaited Charlton Riverside plan.



A VERY EXCITING DAY!

Elliscombe Road residents were determined to mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day with a truly 1940s style street party and pulled out all the stops. Red, white and blue bunting decked the houses, and there were balloons, floral table centres, music and dance and a general atmosphere of community spirit. People of all ages joined in the celebration on 5 May. As a special tribute, Debbie Joyce, one of the organisers, gave her hedge a patriotic makeover including pictures of her grandfather Bill Badrick who served in the 11th Armoured Division REME throughout WWII. For more on the festivities and the full story on Debbie's grandfather go to our website (charltonresidents.net).



FLOWER POWER AND

THAT'S THE WAY TO DO IT!

Tips from the experts on how to become a prize-winning exhibitor

PSST! Want to know the secret of perfect produce and fabulous flowers? Then read on because we've got advice from some of Charlton's top gardeners and creators. And they should know because they are all past winners at CCRA's annual Flower, Produce and Craft Show.

The event showcases our talented growers, bakers, crafters and photographers, and that includes our children.

Prizes in all categories and trophies for 'Best in Show', 'Best Single Flower', 'Excellence in Baking', 'Best Craft Item' and 'Best Fruit/Vegetable'.

Come and join the fun. For a copy of the full schedule of categories plus our Hints and Tips visit: dub.sh/CCRA-show-25

Start planning your entries now and good luck!



Top tips ...

Think about display

Judy (Elliscombe) is a past winner of the 'Village Greengrocers Perpetual Trophy for Best Fruit/Vegetable in Show'.

Her **tomato** tips: Grow what you like to eat, otherwise your efforts will be wasted. Sow at the right time/temperature (greenhouse or sunny, indoor windowsill). 'Harden off' before planting by outing young plants during the day and taking them in at night.

When planting-on Judy takes an 8-inch pot and cuts the bottom out. Once in the ground it is filled with grow bag mix/soil improver to help retain water. Once established,



pull out side-shoots and some leaves, till there are three or four trusses per plant. 'Tumbling toms' can be grown from a hanging basket.

Her last tip: think about the display: Judy favours a plain white dish.

Let the fairies out

You don't have to be Irish to make soda bread, but it helps.

Lily, born in Dublin, has lived nearly 50 years in Delafield Road and has been making **soda bread** for more years than she can remember.

Her top tips: Once you have mixed 500g of plain wholemeal flour with 1 teaspoon of salt and 1½ teaspoons of bicarb into a bowl, lift into the air with your fingers for a couple of minutes to aerate. Add lemon zest.

Traditionally made with buttermilk, Lily makes hers with plain thick yoghurt (400 ml) and juice of the lemon. Mix together to form the dough (if too dry add a sip of milk). Lightly knead into the round bun shape and put a deep cut across the top to "let the fairies out".

Bake for 40 mins (Gas mark 5) middle/bottom of oven on



a piece of floured parchment. If the top starts to burn, cover with foil and continue baking.

You'll know it's ready by turning it over and tapping the bottom which should sound like a drum.

Final tip: make two loaves as the first will be eaten in a jiffy and keep practising because practice makes perfect.

PERFECT PRODUCE

Slowness is golden

Rosemary (Inverine) is a winning chutney maker and here are her tips:

Use seasonal ingredients. A visit to a market for £1 bowls of fruit is a cheap option. You can follow a recipe, but it's OK to tailor it to your individual taste, using what's in your cupboard.

If you like spicy tomato chutney then add chilli (fresh or dried), garlic or paprika.

The golden rule is slow cooking! Allow a good hour for the chutney to reach a sticky, jammy texture.

A second key rule is to ensure the jars have been sterilised.

Final tip: Label jars, and if



you are making the chutney as a gift or to enter in a competition, why not tie a ribbon round the neck of the jar?

Be happy and inspired

Claire (Sundorne) has advice for budding artists. Her *Ballet Dancer* painting took last year's Best in Show.

Top tip: Choose a subject that inspires. Begin with a sketch and leave it on an easel for at least a day so you can continue to tweak it, until you're happy.

Choose paint carefully, to match your preferences and technical strengths. It helps to lay out colours and test each shade on scrap paper first.

Decide early if you need a 'wash' for the background. Don't rush the details, do this in stages and allow areas to dry



to avoid accidental smudges. Keep the painting on the easel so you can look at it regularly, in case you decide to adjust the colour. It is only finished when you feel happy with it.

'Always have a go and if you don't win try again next year'



Keep going, be confident

Creative Florence (Delafield) won the over-eight category with her beautiful *Sky* photograph, taken when she was 10.

Her advice: always have a go and if you don't win try again next year.

Keep going and be confident about your aims. Florence encourages others to have a go, but beware... she is entering again this year!

The Old Cottage Coffee Shop

A traditional tea shop serving high quality tea, coffee and snacks

Open every day from 10am in Charlton Park



When: Saturday 6 September.

Where: St Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road.

Times: 8.30 – 10.30am Entries accepted

10.30 – 2.30 Judging by Blackheath and Greenwich WI (Hall closed)

2.30 – Hall open for viewing and prize giving.

Cost: £1 per item with children's entries free.

How happy is my valley?

... A view from the terraces

A very, very Happy Valley...

After five years and a lot of blood sweat and tears, Charlton are back in the championship. They clinched promotion in the play-offs final at Wembley last month, amid amazing scenes of celebration. The victory – 1-0 against Leyton Orient – wasn't the greatest of matches, but it was enough to see us return to the second tier.

More than 76,000 fans watched the game, 40,000 of them Charlton supporters urging on their team and in the 31st minute came the moment of magic that sealed the deal. Tyrese Campbell was brought down just outside the box and up stepped Charlton fullback Macaulay Gillespiey to curl an inch perfect free kick around the wall and into the bottom corner of the net.

Celebrations were suitably ecstatic and the roar when captain Greg Docherty lifted the trophy could have been heard back at the Valley. It's all a far cry from mid-season when the question was more about whether we could avoid relegation. A 0-1 home defeat to lowly Crawley was the nadir. Manager Nathan Jones acknowledged that as the lowest point, but he remained optimistic that change was on the way. He was proved right and from

there we climbed steadily back into the top six and, finally, clinched promotion.

Jones has been rewarded for his successful stewardship by being offered a five-year contract against stiff competition from Cardiff. And as he said after the match: "This is a great day for Charlton, but the work starts here."

Rumour is that the owners have opened their cheque book for Jones to buy quality players in order to succeed in the higher tier.

And already there are changes afoot. Chuks "Messiah" Aneke has been released and Thierry Small has departed to Preston. Midfielder Sonny Carey has joined from Blackpool and two former Addicks are being pursued.

Morgan Fox who played more than 100 games for Charlton is looking likely to return to the Valley along with former loanee Akin Famewo, a respected centre back.

Key to success has been the

rock-solid defence, at its heart is central defender Lloyd Jones. He has been a towering figure this season and was the fans' choice for Player of the Year. But there were several other candidates for the title with half a dozen names in the hat. Hard to choose when your strikers include Matty Godden. Dubbed "The

Sniffer Dog" for his ability to sense a half chance and convert it into a goal, Godden quickly became a fans' favourite, notching up 22 goals, a personal best for him and a very respectable tally for the club. Tyrese Campbell, Thierry Small, Kayne Ramsay, Luke Berry, Josh Edwards and Macaulay Gillespiey were

all outstanding. Midfielder Connor Coventry took over from former Charlton captain George Dobson who we will be playing against next season in his central role for Wrexham and has made the position his own.

Having watched most home games and some of the away matches I am confident that the majority of the squad will not just survive in the championship but will thrive. Given our talented academy and an injection of new blood I believe this could be the dawn of a new and successful era for Charlton.

Crongers fished. COYR's.



It is rare to mention Crystal Palace in these columns but a big shout must go out to Greenwich-born striker Eberechi Eze, 26, who scored the winning goal for Palace against Man City in the FA cup final to see his side earn its first major trophy. A former Fosssdene Primary School pupil, Eze is part of the England squad and despite interest from other top premiership clubs is believed to have re- signed for Palace.

THAT WALL IN SUNDORNE ROAD

We've been waiting a long time – slime on the pavement and an out-of-action bus stop.
As we go to press

there is currently scaffolding along its length. We're hoping this could herald the rebuilding of the wall

which has been out of action for the community for an unacceptable amount of time.
Thanks to our local

councillors (Jo Van den Broek and Gary Dillon) for their help in moving towards a resolution.
Watch this space.

On the Grapevine ...

Youth Film Club

As the doors open and the smell of pizza fills the air, local young people start to arrive for an evening of connection, laughter and a bit of friendly competition over table tennis or Uno. This is St Richard's Youth Film Club, which takes place every second Saturday of the month. Before the lights dim for the main feature, there's time to relax. Board games, pool and card games provide a fun and easy way to break the ice, while a short group activity helps make sure no one's left on the sidelines.

Run entirely by DBS-checked volunteers, the club is a safe, welcoming space where young people can feel at ease. And in an era where community spaces are under pressure, it's a small but powerful reminder of what happens when a neighbourhood invests in its youth.

The Youth Film Club is open to all local young people – details of upcoming events can be found at strichardscharlton.co.uk/film-club.

Charlton On the Move

We may not get you 'beach body ready' but CCRA's exercise class will certainly improve your balance and wake you up on a Monday morning. Exercises specially chosen for our more elderly residents focus on keeping muscle strength and conditioning. The friendly class members stay behind after each session for a light bite. We run sessions every Monday morning in St

Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road: 11-11.30am arrive, 11.30am-12.30pm exercise and 12.30-1pm refreshments. It is £36 for 6 sessions. If you want to know more contact chair@charltonresidents.net

The Tuesday Social

Fancy some company, a slice of cake, and something to do? Come along to our weekly, warm, welcoming space to relax, chat, and enjoy an afternoon with your neighbours. Whether you're retired, working from home, caring for little ones, or just fancy some friendly faces and a change of scene, you're very welcome. There's no agenda – do a spot of gardening, try a board game, bring your knitting, or simply sit and enjoy the company. Extended by popular demand, the Tuesday Social will now run into the summer. Come along to St Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road (use Sundorne Road entrance). Sessions are every Tuesday – next session 1 July, from 1pm to 3pm. Hosted by CCRA and St Richard's Church.

Singing group

After a break since March, the singing group is briefly resuming. Sessions to run on Mondays 30 June and 14 July, all starting at 7.30pm. Fortnightly sessions will resume as normal from September. New members are always welcome. There is no audition process and the aim of the group is just to enjoy the opportunity to sing together. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Chris on 020

8858 7377 – or just come along to one of our sessions.

Instrumental music group SE7

The group will be back at Cattleya this summer and further information will be published in the usual channels. If you are interested in joining the group or finding out more about us, please contact Chris on 020 8858 7377.

Community Gardens

At three different locations in SE7, on 22 May we held the annual Plant Sale. Money is needed to revive the compost in the raised beds at Charlton Station and to maintain the community orchards in Charlton Park. There was a wide range of vegetable seedlings and flowering plants on offer. In total the sale raised almost £500. Many thanks to our neighbours who support CCG.

Quintessential Quizingo

It was an unusually warm April evening and CCRA's spring social, this year Quizingo, was under way. About 45 people took part in the evening of brain teasers, skill and of course a bit of luck. There was hot food and drinks

CCRA

QUIZINGO

to be had and people enjoyed getting together with neighbours for some fun, chat and prizes galore. It was a different approach to a quiz evening, which merged the brain-workout of quizzing and the drama of bingo. Thanks to those who attended, those who gave feedback and to those who made it happen.

ST RICHARD'S CHARLTON SE7



FILM CLUB

AGES 12-16

EVERY SECOND SATURDAY FROM 5.30-9.30PM

A fun, safe, and supportive space for young people to hang out, with food and a film, plus pool, table tennis and other games.

FREE ENTRY

PIZZA, SOFT DRINKS AND SNACKS AVAILABLE

Dates for your diary

Saturday 5 July

Community Day at
St Richard's Hall
Litter-pick
10am-12noon and
Vintage Fayre 2pm-5pm



Wednesday 16 July

Foraging
workshop
(council funded)
to discover
edible



plants in
our area. 12.30pm
at St Richard's Hall.
Estimated walk
2hours 30 minutes.

For further details:

dub.sh/swallowfield-foraging

Saturday 6 September

Flower, produce and craft
show St Richard's Hall
For details see pages 4 & 5

Saturday 4 October

CCRA AGM and Quiz
Night St Richard's Hall
Details to follow

THUMBS UP



To the 27,000 joyful Charlton fans who packed the Valley last month to see their team reach the play-off finals for League One

THUMBS DOWN!



To the ones who left our streets litter-strewn as they made their way home

Contributions to this column welcome!



GRAPEVINE

Grapevine reaches 900 homes and retail outlets in our designated area and beyond. Email comments, feedback, queries or material for future issues to grapevine@charltonresidents.net by **Monday 25 August 2025**.

Alternatively, phone Joy Ogden on 020 8293 3034 or Bob Smith on 020 8853 2697.

TO ADVERTISE, contact grapevine@charltonresidents.net.
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION on CCRA events check your local noticeboard, our website (charltonresidents.net), Twitter (@ccra_se7) and Facebook (facebook.com/centralcharlton).



Ring of success ... an inspiring story that will run and run

The iconic music from the 1981 Oscar-winning film *Chariots of Fire* has been a musical mantra for generations of aspiring athletes.

And for 24 years it has been celebrated in a special ceremony at St Luke's Church in Charlton Village on London Marathon day.

It came about through the generosity of a local family who, in 2000, donated a set of bells to the church from the Whitechapel foundry.

Until then, St Luke's had one bell up in the belfry that was 250 years old. You can still hear it every Sunday ringing out its message to worshippers that morning service is about to start.

Then a visiting bell ringer from Valencia thought it would be a great idea to greet participants in the big race with the anthem and transcribed Chariots of Fire for bell notation urging St Luke's to ring it out on Marathon Day.

St Luke's took it to heart and, this year again, as the runners began their 26-mile epic and emerged into Charlton village last month the bells rang out the familiar music and the vicar, the Rev Liz Newman in full regalia, stood at the roadside blessing the passing athletes with holy water.

Up in the tower as this annual rope trick begins the cry goes out: "Pull the other one – it's got bells on ..."

Charlton Central Residents Association