

Coming soon! Get the date of the CCRA Christmas Fayre into your diary:

**Saturday 6
December, 2-5pm at
St Richard's Hall**

Come along for a wonderful Christmassy afternoon of Craft & Gift Stalls.

You can enjoy a glass of mulled wine or a cup of tea from our Yuletide Café while browsing round the Fayre.

There are children's activities, including a Christmas Nativity scene in the chapel. And, there is an exciting Christmas hamper to be won, carol singing and so much more.

Free entry – you can join us for the whole afternoon – or just pop in if you're too busy with Christmas preparation to spare more time.

Don't miss the Christmas Jumper Competition at around 4.15. There are prizes for children and adults.



The hamper and raffle prizes will be declared around that time too.

From 4.30 local singers will sing for you and then for the last 10 or 15 minutes of the afternoon there will be

an opportunity for you to join in with all the carols and Christmas songs you know so well.

Once again, we are most grateful to Truepenny's for their support. Their boards

outside houses in our area will remind you of the date and time of the fayre.

Their financial support helps us to put on events bringing our community together.



Annie Galloway and Jas Dhesi dispensing Christmas cheer at the tombola stall

A TIME FOR GIVING ...

For more Christmas cheer for all of us and for those less fortunate join us for carol singing. On Monday 15 and Tuesday 16 December we'll be singing and collecting for two local and very worthwhile charities – Greenwich Food Bank and the Greenwich Homeless Project. For further details of where and when we'll be on these two dates see page 12.



A REQUEST FROM THE CHRISTMAS EVENT TEAM

We are looking for donations for our Christmas tombola and raffle. If you have any items that you think are suitable (for children or adults) we would be grateful for them. They would need to be in good condition. Items can be dropped off at Brenda's, 49 Delafield Road or Jane's, 22 Sundorne Road.



TRUEPENNY'S

PROPERTY CONSULTANTS



YOUR LOCAL
INDEPENDENT IN

Charlton



Hi, I'm
Hayden



I'm the Branch Manager at Truepenny's Property Consultants in Charlton, where I lead a fantastically dedicated team.

Whether you're thinking about moving, buying your first home, or just in need of some honest property advice, we're always happy to help.

Feel free to pop in or give us a call.

020 7639 1000

charlton@truepennys.com

1A The Village, Charlton, SE7 8UG



Wellington Gardens, SE7



Montcalm Road, SE7



Parkcroft Road, SE12

What our clients say...

Olly

Having gone through several experiences with Estate Agents, Truepenny's was certainly the best by far thanks to Hayden...

Nelson

Mr Hayden Ellis, Manager of Truepenny's Charlton, may be the rare exception to the rule: a real estate agent who is truly honest.

Rebecca

We recently had the pleasure of working with Truepenny's and we are very happy with the whole experience.



Membership matters ... in 2026

We hope you have enjoyed *Grapevine* throughout this year and have found the articles interesting and informative, whether you have been a long-time reader or are new to the area and the magazine.

If you enjoy reading *Grapevine* and staying in touch with the local news, why not support CCRA's work and become a member? Your membership fees help fund the production of *Grapevine* and deliver it to our local community.

It also entitles you to reduced admission to our events, to join our special interest groups and to

be part of our management team.

Our membership form for 2026 is enclosed with this copy of *Grapevine* or, if you prefer, you can renew by completing the form on our website.

If you do not live in our local 14 roads, you can become an Associate Member and, as well as enjoy the benefits above, have *Grapevine* emailed to you.

Annual membership is still £7 for an

options are available.

If you have any questions about membership, please do drop a line to us at membership@charltonresidents.net. Thank you for your support.

Wendy Spink and Sergey Makarov
(Membership Team)



individual, £12 for a family/ household and £5 per year for unwaged and students – the usual payment

CCRA matters ...

We held our AGM on Saturday 4 October, followed by our ever-popular Quiz Night, writes Jonathan Sanders.

AGM attendees heard about what we've been doing over the past year, from our social events to our fundraising efforts to our community activism – and of course the publication of the much-loved *Grapevine*. We

formally received our audited accounts and elected our new team for the year ahead. I am deeply honoured to have been re-elected as Chair and look forward to our future programme.

Members of our team elected for 26/27 are: Jonathan Sanders (Chair), Annie Galloway (Vice-Chair), Jane Bland and Sarah Hornsey (Treasurers),

Sergey Makarov and Wendy Spink (Membership Secretaries), Brenda Taggart (Secretary), together with Vikki Barrie, Baljinder Dhesi, David Gayther and Martina Keating.

We're a friendly bunch, and if you'd like to get involved, or if you have any questions, please do get in touch with me at chair@charltonresidents.net.

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 2 March 2026**. 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/X (@ccra_se7) and Facebook (facebook.com/centralcharlton).

ELLISCOMBE TEAM TRIUMPH IN TRAD QUIZ

Following our successful AGM, keen teams of quizzers put their brains together for our annual quiz night.

Returning to a traditional format, points were gained for knowledge on history, geography, literature etc.

The quiz was interspersed with 'spot prizes', won by those lovers of trivia.

With a nail-biting finish, a team from Elliscombe scooped up the prizes.

We would like to thank the Dhesi family from Calydon Road for setting the questions and managing the technology on the night – and our cheery team of volunteers who supported this community event.

Looking forward to a new year with CCRA

We would like your ideas on what you would like CCRA to include in the 2026 social programme.

Past events have included International Food Night, Family Ceilidh dancing, Quizingo, Board Games night, special speakers on local topics.

Suggestions so far include a local talent night, Strictly CCRA, bingo/fish & chip supper, poker/bridge night and many more!

HOLD THIS DATE for our next social gathering: **Saturday 11 April 2026**.

Will it be dancing, wine tasting, or open mic? Look out for further details in the New Year. If you have any ideas or views contact secretary@charltonresidents.net



The Army is about to leave Woolwich after over 250 years, and the second stage of the consultation on the future of the land and buildings the MOD owns finishes at the end of November.

The consultation is entitled Woolwich Barracks Draft Supplementary Planning Document, but it is not just about the barracks and surrounding land, it is about all the land being released by the Army, including the whole of Woolwich Common from Ha-Ha Road right up to Shooters Hill Road, and Repository Woods, which is largely hidden behind the back wall of Charlton Cemetery and the wall alongside Hill Reach, the main road into Woolwich.

What is suggested at the Woolwich end of the whole site is nearly 2,000 new homes, including a conversion of the famous Barracks building. There would be new housing on land behind the barracks, and on Upper and Lower Gun Park across Repository Road from the Barracks.

The rest of the site is Metropolitan Open Land and the brief does not support any house building on Woolwich Common or in or around Repository Woods. On the contrary, it talks about improving and sustaining open space, including sites of special scientific interest, and creating new paths and links to existing local walks.

A goodish planning brief. But the future ownership of the land and buildings remains to be determined; it is not a decision for a planning committee.

However, there is more than a hint that at least some of the Metropolitan Open Land could become and remain the responsibility of a single developer,



HISTORIC ENGLAND

very likely a big housebuilder.

The section on Repository Woods says: "The long-term management of the historic woodland will also be vital in maintaining and enhancing its quality. Once restored the developer should set this out in a Conservation Development Plan". And at the single consultation event, the answer to the question 'will the public have access to Repository Woods?' was 'That will depend on the developer'. Future ownership plans for Woolwich Common south of Ha-Ha Road are also not clear.

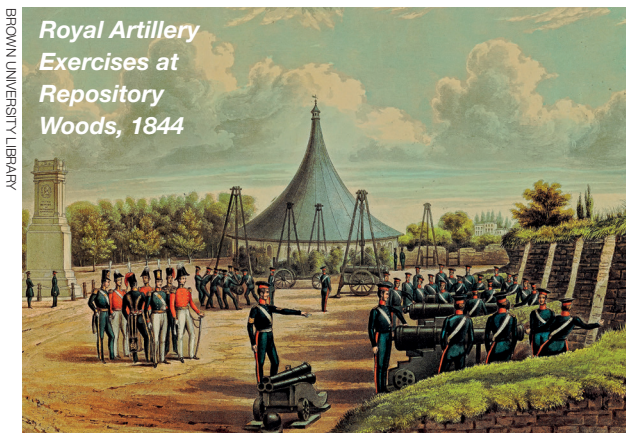
A big housing company purchasing the 'brownfield' housing area from the MOD makes sense; selling protected

open space to a housing developer would be a matter of great concern.

Assurances from a developer to a planning board meeting about protecting open space would be no guarantee at all, in the long term. To ensure the future use, quality and access to open spaces, for generations to come, requires them to be retained in public ownership, preferably the ownership of the Council.

We recognise the Council is not in total control of the situation; it cannot decree the transfer of open space. At this moment, it might be pushed to find additional resources to cover the costs of restoration and maintenance. But this is not just a 2020s decision; it's about the very long-term future.

Councillors could and should indicate their support for retaining Metropolitan Open Land in public-ownership and find a way to amend this draft document so that it says exactly that. We hope that would also get the support of the London Mayor and the Government.



BROWN UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Royal Artillery Exercises at Repository Woods, 1844

Repository Woods were created by the army over 200 years ago. The woods, lake and ponds were designed to assist military training but were also used for recreation by officers and their families and included two croquet lawns. It is now a Grade II listed park, but Historic England recently put it on its 'at risk' list of sites that have been neglected.

GREENWICH FOOD BANK

Not only food, but transforming lives

Local churches and community groups worked together to set up Greenwich Food Bank, which now has nine centres across the borough (greenwich.foodbank.org.uk/locations).

Initially the prime aim was to ensure that no-one in our area should go hungry and to that end CCRA's carol singers have collected money and donated to it for many years.

Families in receipt of a voucher can be offered three-days-worth of food.



If you know someone who may need emergency food provision, they should contact the Greenwich Community Hub

on 0800 470 4831, or contact Citizens' Advice, a health visitor, RBG housing support or an RBG Children's Centre.

These contacts may be able to offer support instead of/as well as a foodbank referral.

There is now a recognition that those needing help to eat may also need other forms of support.

Indeed, the food bank now declares that it is not only about food but about transforming lives.

GREENWICH HOMELESS PROJECT

Your time can make a real difference

As the winter months roll in, most of us reach for an extra blanket or put the kettle on.

But for many in our community, the colder nights bring fear, discomfort and danger. The Greenwich Homeless Project (GHP) knows this reality only too well – and works tirelessly all year round to change it.

GHP, (formerly Greenwich Winter Night Shelter) was set up in 2014 when seven Greenwich churches, including St Richard's, opened their doors for one night a week offering a warm bed, hot food and the reassurance that



someone cared.

In 2022 GHP secured and established its current permanent shelter at Middle Park Avenue, Eltham.

Today, the shelter operates as a day centre all year round and from October to March it transforms into a 14-bed winter night

shelter. Alongside safe sleeping spaces, guests can access hot meals, showers, laundry facilities and one-to-one support.

The small, determined team of six part-time staff is supported by an army of generous volunteers. They support with the practical tasks, such as cooking meals, helping with laundry, but also offer a listening ear.

One guest, Paul, described how, after losing his job and home in quick succession, he arrived at the Project exhausted, hungry, and unsure how to start again. Over a period of weeks, the Project helped him into permanent accommodation. When he returned, he told staff "You gave me back my hope. I walked in here feeling invisible and you made me feel human again"

Running the winter night shelter and a year-round day centre is no small task. One

of the night shift workers, Sue said: "I thought I was just signing up to make tea and toast. But I've learnt so much about compassion, patience and community. It's changed me as much as it's helped our guests".

Without volunteers, fewer people would have a safe bed, a hot meal or even a conversation when they need it most. David, a volunteer cook, says: "You don't need special skills – just kindness and a willingness to help. Every shift I've done reminds me how small actions can mean the world to someone who's struggling".

If you can commit to serving breakfast once a month, or a regular evening shift, your time can make a real difference.

This winter, be part of making sure no one in Greenwich and the surrounding boroughs must face the cold alone.

To find out more about volunteering or donating, visit the Greenwich Homeless Project website (greenwichhomelessprojectorg.uk) or call 020 3355 6880

The Old Cottage Coffee Shop

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

Open every day from 10am in Charlton Park



CCRA is proud to have donated to both the food bank and the homeless project over many years. Carol singers and residents who have given generously can be equally proud to have been contributing to supporting those in need within our community. See page 12 for date and times when carol singers will be near you!

NEW DELI IN CHARLTON VILLAGE

Charlton residents have been very excited about the opening of a new Italian delicatessen in The Village.

Passers-by are tempted in by its range of Italian cheeses and cold meats. There are also Italian pastries, such as cannoli, antipasto, pesto and an array of pasta.

Currently, in preparation for Christmas, there are pandoro and panettone of different sizes and flavours hanging from the ceiling.

When Simina Ghent (*right*) arrived in the UK from Romania in January 2007, she worked in two Italian delicatessens – one in Greenwich

and one in Lewisham – where she fell in love with Italian food.

She says: “My favourite dish is definitely carbonara. The guanciale gives the dish a distinctive flavour. Another favourite is pasta e patate – and add scamarta (a smoked cheese) and parmigiano. It’s really delicious!”

It has been a long-term goal for Simi and her husband Raz to open a delicatessen. After signing a contract with the landlord in September, just one month later Simi’s was opened.

Simi and Raz are grateful for all the support they have enjoyed from



the local community. Judging by the customers going through the door, seven days a week, it appears that our community is enjoying having an Italian deli on our doorstep.

GREENWICH BOROUGH ARCHIVE

Could we look forward to our own museum one day in the future?

The Royal Borough of Greenwich has a long and illustrious history. In the 10th century, it was a small fishing village known as Gronewic. The proximity of the river and its market helped it to grow. The Vikings were here, as were the Tudors who built the grand royal residences where three future monarchs were born.

Woolwich has a strong and long military history and even our own area is linked to that. Some of the houses in Wellington Gardens for example were built for officers returning after the Indian Rebellion of 1857.

But where would you go to find our history? Where could you see photographs, paintings and writing by the borough’s past residents? Ah, yes the Borough Archive – hidden away on an industrial site down Anchor and Hope Lane. Yes, you can browse documents, parish registers and census returns to enable your own research into local history or your own ancestry.

However, despite the helpful staff on duty, this is only available if you know

BARRY VINCENT/ALAMY



Greenwich Heritage Centre in 2017

what to ask for and can make an appointment for a time on one of only four days a month.

Gone are the days when Greenwich Heritage Centre, on the Arsenal site in Woolwich, enabled a walk-in experience with staff available for advice and guidance. There were always main exhibitions and displays to grab your attention; but this all ended when it closed

in 2018.

Lewisham has the Horniman Museum, Southwark has its own Heritage Centre and Bexley has Hall Place. Greenwich might have the magnificent Royal Museums – National Maritime, Royal Observatory, Queen’s House and Cutty Sark forming part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site, but they are all dedicated to all things naval and the sea.

Where is the story about the local people, its flora and fauna of the past and today and the importance of the development of industry in the borough?

We have some splendid buildings in little or partial use where a museum might be housed. Maybe Greenwich residents could look forward to their own museum one day in the near future?

Campaigners prepare video for crowdfunding launch

By White Swan Music & Arts

There's something stirring in Charlton Village—and it's not just the smell of fresh coffee and Italian pastries.

A busy few weeks for White Swan Music & Arts, first we achieved Charitable Community Benefit Society status, and then we officially wrapped filming on our upcoming Crowdfunder campaign video!

Both of which mean we're one step

closer to bringing the White Swan back to life as a community-run pub, arts space, and cultural hub.

We're nearly there. But to make this happen, we're going to need the whole community involved – sharing, pledging, spreading the word.

This is about more than saving a pub. It's about making space again for music, creativity, and connection in the heart of Charlton.



If you are not already in the loop – and want to be first to know when the

Crowdfunder goes

live – sign up to our mailing list via the website: whiteswanmusicandarts.org

We've come a long way just to get to the starting line.

We're going to need you and all our supporters to help us win the race.

LOCAL PLAN READY

Every major council in the country has to prepare and update a local plan outlining policies which guide decision making in planning committees.

'Local' in our case means the whole of Greenwich. The last plan was agreed in 2014 and the new first draft is likely to be agreed by the Council on December 3 for a six-week consultation.

It is nearly 700 pages long, but a quick glance at what it means for Charlton Riverside shows a worrying departure from the current policy which limits new buildings to ten storeys.

Also controversial is the need for an all-through school (5-18) on the riverside, and a centre for the community that straddles the top of Anchor and Hope Lane, across four lanes of cars and lorries and a bus lane.

Not found, so far, is any reference to a joined up raised flood wall upstream from the Barrier, nor a decent sized park for an area deficient in open space. But it's still at the consultation stage.

Traffic management scheme set to stay

At a Scrutiny Panel meeting on 6 November, the future of the contentious West/East Greenwich Low Traffic Management scheme (LTN) was debated by councillors, officers and the public.

This followed a rejection of the LTN by the Tory, Independent and Green parties. Their main objection was that it failed to implement RBG's intention to make 'Greenwich greener, safer and cleaner for EVERYONE to move around'.

Independent Councillor Lakshan Saldin drew on data from the council's report to conclude traffic had increased in the Charlton Area, insufficient account had been taken of the opening of the Silvertown Tunnel and there were negligible benefits to air quality.

Members of CLEAR (Coalition for Liveable, Equitable & Accessible Roads) highlighted flaws in the report's data and questioned whether the data collection was 'grounded in a comprehensive evidence base'.

Members of the public supporting the scheme reported cycling and walking being safer in and around the closed roads.

However, those against highlighted many problems on boundary roads, including anti-social behaviour, noise pollution, traffic jams and feeling less safe.

Sarah Hornsey representing CCRA spoke about the impact on our area and the Council's skirting over the negative effects of the scheme.

Acknowledging that there had been an adverse impact on some roads in Charlton, the Council claimed that they would put in place mitigation measures. When repeatedly

questioned about these, they failed

to fully explain what these were, arguing they needed further engagement with residents, after the scheme had been made permanent.

At the end of a long evening the Scrutiny Panel voted in favour of making the scheme permanent with conditions for further monitoring on boundary roads and more information on proposed mitigations.

This decision with its nebulous and unspecified solutions for Charlton is far from satisfactory for those of us living in our neighbourhood.

One resident spoke about traffic being at complete gridlock – such that on one evening in early November it took over an hour to travel from the Standard to the bottom of Charlton Church Lane.

Many residents are angry that our access to a 'greener, safer and cleaner' environment appears to be considered less important than in other, perhaps more affluent areas of the borough.

■ For more information go to cleargreenwich.com dub.sh/RBG-traffic





HALLOWEEN HORRORS

It was a dark and stormy night ... but that didn't stop CCRA's Family Halloween Pumpkin Trail taking place. An intrepid assortment of ghosts, ghouls and goblins combed Elliscombe, Nadine and Gollogly in the hunt for clues to a Secret Halloween Code. Once they cracked the code there were prizes aplenty. We are grateful to residents who entered into the spirit of Halloween and welcomed all our spooky families. A very big thanks to Debbie and Tim in Elliscombe whose superb organisation overcame the rain to produce a wonderful experience for all the family.

PLANNING

More HMOs and units for students

While the building of new family homes locally grinds slowly, on Greenwich Peninsula and Woolwich there is a boom in planning applications for student accommodation with no college or university in mind, and new Homes in Multiple Occupation (HMOs), where some facilities, usually bathrooms and kitchen space are shared.

In Lewisham there are proposals to demolish and rebuild the shopping centre with hundreds of such units on top, and, for the old City Bank building, posh HMOs – Community Living, where you at least have your own loo.

On the Woolwich Road there is a fresh application for a 15-bedroom HMO, joining the old Pickwick pub with the site next door (15/3248/F).

It is a revised plan, a similar scheme was rejected in May. This one aims to provide better access for disabled people and could look attractive, but what we desperately need is new affordable family homes. They would of course generate less rent.

There was a time when HMOs were conversions, providing just two or three bedrooms upstairs, with a shared bathroom and kitchen. Now we are creating new buildings, housing tens or even hundreds of people, many of whom would love a proper home but see little prospect of buying or renting.

Things may improve in the future – RBG is proposing new rules to restrict HMOs in the first draft of its updated Local Plan (see *opposite*).

More than 50 trees saved from the chop

The road which runs past the entrance to Queen Elizabeth hospital is Stadium Road at one end and Baker Road at the other.

Originally separate, they were joined in 2001 when the NHS took over what was previously a military hospital and the Health Trust also inherited the roads from the army.

Although the road is

used by several bus routes, including the 486, in places it is narrow. So the hospital applied for permission to widen the road so it could then be adopted by and looked after by the Council.

Somewhere in the Council, it was suggested that, at the same time, a cycle path should be created on the Woolwich Common side of the road.

But this 'good idea' required cutting down 53 mature trees on the edge of the common, most healthy.

Not surprisingly, led by the Friends of Woolwich Common, this resulted in over 500 objections to the plan, including one from the local cyclist organisation.

Nonetheless, Council officers recommended approval of the scheme.

Happily, as we go to press, the plan has been withdrawn from the planning Board agenda on November 18.

That does not mean it will not reappear at some point, but, at the very least, someone is having second thoughts.

It seems likely that the scale of the opposition has been registered; people can still make a difference.

How happy is my valley?

... A view from the terraces

Fortress Valley has fans daring to hope



After a slow start and some disappointing results, life in the championship looked like being the struggle we all feared.

But the maxim boils down to one word: survival. Just get through this season and remain in the championship. You can build for better in the future.

Well the cautious pundits certainly didn't write Charlton's script, did they?

Fifteen games in and we are a team to be reckoned with. Birmingham who were promoted as League One champions and runners up Wrexham are now lower in the table than we are. So there!

Currently, going into the break for internationals, the tally is 23 points, with six wins and ninth place. Two weeks earlier we were placed sixth. Yes, sixth and a place in the play-offs.

Ok, so we lost to Wrexham on the road, annoying as they poached our iconic captain George

"Dobbo" Dobson.

A 0-1 defeat down to a dubious penalty decision and a couple of spectacular saves by the home keeper cost us three points, but the boys never lost hope with Luke Berry going so close in the dying seconds with a wonderful header.

At home, at the Valley we have been impregnable with some standout performances.

But every one of the squad is giving the proverbial 110 per cent with bodies on the line to keep a clean sheet.

There are no easy games in this division. We are playing clubs with recent premiers experience and players to match. But our defence has been nothing short of brilliant this season headed by the outstanding Lloyd Jones. Not only is he the lynch pin of the back line but he is always ready to burst forward and get into the attack.

Manager Nathan Jones

has somehow inspired his team to give him everything on the pitch. Youngsters are coming in and proving themselves up to the task when senior players take a knock. And there have been some problematic injuries this season so a fully functioning squad has proved vital.

We still haven't seen Mattie Godden set foot on the pitch yet, but insiders say it will only be days before he is on the team sheet again. New striker Charlie Kelman has finally opened his account only to take a knock and now he is sidelined.

But Jones keeps putting out sides that are fiercely competitive and goal hungry.

Sonny Carey, 24, one of the new intake, is proving to be a superstar, slotting home some great goals, so much so that was shortlisted for Championship Player of the Month for October.

His rocket shot from outside the box in the dying minutes of the home game

against West Brom was magnificent and earned Les Garcons another home win on a chilly Tuesday night under the lights.

If we can keep up this consistency, avoid too many injuries to key players then – who knows. Already there is talk of plays-offs and premiership. There is a long way to go, but few of us expected to be in such a deservedly respectable place. Can we do it? Congrats fessed. COYR's.

■ **Let's hear it for Karen Hills' Charlton women who have set off at a scorching pace in women's super league 2. With eight games gone, they have notched up six wins and two draws to take them to 20 points and the top slot, four points clear of second placed Birmingham. Hopes are high of promotion. They have also set out their stall in the League Cup, beating Brighton 1-0. Congratulations.**

Local policing update

We are delighted to welcome to our Safer Neighbourhood Policing Team, PC Jake Hill. He joins Sgt Matt Hoyne Butler, PC Jake Lee, PC Polina Ivanova and PCSO Anna Maria Fiorillo, who is currently on maternity leave.

You can contact our SNT by emailing CharltonVillage&Riverside.SNT@met.police.uk.

Having a full complement of officers is essential to ensure local policing is community-led. Local policing priorities

are decided every three months by the Ward Panel. Current priorities are shoplifting in Charlton Church Lane; Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) in Charlton Park and around the station and parade.

Our team recently took part in a raid on a residential address in Charlton that saw significant amounts of drugs being seized as well as hunting knives and mobile phones.

We appreciate the work they do to keep our community safe.

REPRIEVE FOR PLUMSTEAD POLICE STATION

Following a rash of protests from around the capital, the Met have been persuaded to retain a public desk at most of London's police stations, including Plumstead. It will be open from 10 am to 10 pm on weekdays and 9am to 7 pm at weekends. Only Charing Cross and Lewisham will be open 24 hours a day.

On the Grapevine ...

Tuesday Social

As the weather gets colder why not come along to a warm space in St Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road for the weekly Tuesday Social group (1.00–3.00 pm – Sundorne Road entrance). You can bring your knitting/craft project, play a board game or just enjoy some great company with good cake and excellent coffee. You don't have to commit for the whole session, just pop in, have a cuppa, meet some neighbours and warm up over the winter months.

Playing Out

CCRA has permission from the council to close Sundorne Road once a fortnight to enable children, of all ages, to experience street play. Playing Out session will resume in the New Year when the weather is warmer. To run a session, we rely on volunteers to set up the equipment and oversee traffic, so that Sundorne's residents can safely access their homes. If you can spare a couple of hours on any Wednesday afternoon to come along and steward, please contact secretary@charltonresidents.net

Book group

There were two meetings in November – one to discuss *The Land in Winter* by Andrew Miller and one for a festive meal at Shooter's Hill Sixth Form College. As December is always full of events, we

won't meet again until January but if you feel you might like to join us give me a ring – Linda on 02 88508 7377.

Singing Group

We will be singing at the Christmas Fayre on 6 December, followed by two evenings of carol singing on 15 and 16 December when everyone is invited to join us (*see page 12 for full details*). Schedule details are also available on Facebook and our website. We'll have a break before we start our regular fortnightly sessions again in January. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Chris on 020 8858 7377 – or just come along to one of our sessions.

Charlton Community Gardens

For the fifth year running, Charlton Community Gardens (CCG) did well in the Royal Horticultural Society's judging of community gardens. We achieved Outstanding in its Neighbourhood Category and a Gold award in respect of the Our Community Category. We were complimented on levels of community participation, environmental responsibility and gardening achievement. – especially the range of flowers and vegetables grown at the station. CCG is delighted to be providing an accessible garden by the community for the community. Please help yourself when you see that produce is ready for picking.

Charlton on the Move

Contrary to the impression given in the picture on page 12, this class is not all 'chair' based but combines a variety of exercises ranging from gentle warm-up, vigorous exercise such as dancing, stretch band work and work with exercise balls. Music is a big part of the class as it helps to focus the mind, coordinate limbs and improve balance. The exercises increase your heart rate and help you rediscover muscles you had forgotten you had.

The class was initially set up with a grant from the council and the support of Charlton Athletic. It is taught by Alison Lawrence who is well-qualified and has been teaching for 37 years. She knows well the important benefits of keeping active, especially in later life. Her exercises aim to tone muscles, prevent falls and thus increase confidence and independence.

Everyone is catered for. One group member with multiple sclerosis stated that she thoroughly enjoys the class and thinks the exercises help to 're-set new patterns in the brain'. She particularly appreciates the support she gets from the group. Another regular attender, who has been coming to the class for six years, loves the social time at the end of the class when a light lunch is offered and shared. The class is every Monday in St Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road. Timings are Arrival 11 to 11.30, Exercise 11.30-12.30, Light lunch 12.30-1pm.

It is inexpensive, costing just £36 for a block of six sessions, which covers hall hire, instructor costs and light lunch. It is the best value for money in town, but maintaining the low price depends on keeping the class full. We currently have some vacancies following some of our long-time members moving out of London. Everyone could do with more exercise in their lives and the Monday class is a great way to start the week. You'll find it fun, beneficial and a great way to meet your neighbours. Book now while spaces are still available.

■ For more information contact: secretary@charltonresidents.net



Instrumental Music Group (SE7)

We have been playing regularly at Cattleya. Our latest performance there was on 23 November. We hope to have one more evening there 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, please contact Chris on 020 8858 7377.

Dates for your diary

Saturday 6 December

CCRA Christmas Fayre, St Richard's Hall, Swallowfield Road

See page 1

Monday 15 Tuesday

16 December

Carol singing
Leaving from
26 Wellington
Gardens at 7pm
Schedule on

this page

Saturday 11 April 2026

CCRA Spring Social
Details to be decided – have your say – see page 2!



Just Another Brick in the Wall?

The pavement adjacent to that wall in Sundorne Road was open for four days, but on day five the council replaced the barriers along the pavement as they were unhappy with the rendering.

As we go to press, it is our understanding that the Council has proceeded to court action against the owner. In the last couple of days metal bars have been secured to the Wall but will these solve the problem? Watch this space.



The leaking wall two years ago

CCRA

THUMBS UP



... to the intrepid band of unsung heroes in our neighbourhood who quietly give their time to keep underfunded charitable institutions and organisations afloat. Happy Christmas!

Contributions to this column welcome!

THUMBS DOWN!



... to the powers that be who have created traffic chaos in Charlton by carrying out roadworks on both the top and bottom roads at the same time. It's a nightmare during rush-hour.



2026: New Year Resolution – join the exercise class? For full details see page 11

CAROL SINGING SCHEDULE

CCRA Singers and friends will be singing at six different locations in the CCRA area, over two evenings, Monday 15 and Tuesday 16 December.

This year we have once again decided to divide our collection between two local charities: Greenwich Homeless Project and Greenwich Food Bank (see p 6).

Please come and join us, either to sing or just to watch. Singers are cordially invited for warming refreshments when we have finished singing each evening.

HOW TO DONATE As well as putting money in our collection buckets, or paying by card on the night, you can donate to either charity online:



greenwich.foodbank.org.uk | greenwichhomelessproject.org.uk

PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY AND HELP US TO CONTINUE OUR TRADITION OF SUPPORTING OTHERS AT THIS TIME



The details of our route are:

Monday 15 December

7.10 Wellington Gardens (near bottom of Elliscombe Road)

7.40 Nadine Street, on the corner

8.10 Elliscombe Road, entrance to Coombe Lodge/Warren Walk.

Tuesday 16 December

7.10 Corner of Priolo Road and Sundorne Road

7.40 Swallowfield Road, outside St Richard's Hall

8.10 Corner of Delafield Road and Inverine Road.

Charlton Central Residents Association