



Registered Charity No: 260077

The Charlton Society

Newsletter March 2024

The White Swan

We are still waiting to hear from the Inspectorate. The Charlton Society understands several hundred objections were received. On discussion with the Inspectorate, there is currently a delay in assessing the site due to a backlog of work, and The Charlton Society has been advised it could take up to 3 months (possibly until June) for a decision to be made. The submission presented by The Charlton Society is posted on the website. Many thanks to all who presented their own submissions (and for sending them through). All details, as and when they become available, will be circulated and posted on the website. The ACV still stands, held by The Charlton Society, as well as organising for the site to be on the RBG Local Heritage List. Following on from the success of the Local Heritage Listing, CS is currently in the process of applying for National Historic Listing as an extra safeguard.

RGHT

Since the appointment of Janet Denne as CEO of the Royal Borough Heritage Trust, The Charlton Society has had meetings to ascertain next steps for the Trust. As has been well documented, RBG currently has a shortfall of £40m which is having an impact on its assets, including Charlton House. As effectively landlords and tenants of CH respectively, it is imperative RBG and RGHT work closely together to maintain the site as operationally viable. The Charlton Society is trying to ascertain the covenant of responsibility between the two parties and ensure community engagement is viable and continues, alongside the maintenance of Charlton House. It has now been confirmed by the Trust, the new lift will be installed by the end of April!

SOVAP 2024 (Save Our Village Action Plan)

SOVAP is always on the Committee agenda and was the starting discussion point for the *Have Your Say* meeting in February where we addressed achievements and ongoing concerns. The issues raised will be discussed at the next Committee meeting and an action plan presented at the April meeting (and detailed on the website). Thank you to all those who attended. Also to reiterate, the Society is in regular contact with the beneficiary of the estate of the late Viscount Gough and the estate managers; repair work to the properties on the south side of the Village which are a part of the estate has commenced. The beneficiary is due to attend a CS meeting in the spring and is kept abreast of the work The Charlton Society is involved in.

Planning

As always the The Charlton Society is very involved with the Greenwich Planning Alliance (GPA), which meets regularly with RBG Planning Officers to discuss SDPs across the borough. The last meeting was held on Wednesday 13th March. Discussion points particularly pertinent to Charlton include:

- *Lansdowne Lane*: the land adjacent to no 85, has a current planning application in place for 5 dwellings, this is to be heard at the next Woolwich and Thamesmead Area Committee on Tuesday, 26th March at 6:30pm at the town hall. The Charlton Society encourages members to attend.
- *33 The Village (Bowes)*: a planning application is currently in play, The Charlton Society is questioning elements of the application, particularly the proposed staircase block. The deadline for objections is Thursday 21st March.

Continued overleaf





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Greenwich Heritage Centre & Archive

As previously discussed the future of the home of the borough's archive has long been a cause for concern, having been moved to a storage facility at Anchorage Point in 2018 on a temporary basis where it remains with very limited access by the public. This has recently come back in to focus, led by GPA with a formal open letter lodged with RBG and RGHT along with a petition, initiated by the The Greenwich Industrial History Society, asking for a fully functioning archive and museum to be re-instated in the borough presented to the Council. Having failed to be discussed at the last two Regeneration, Transport & Culture Scrutiny Panel meetings, The Charlton Society is keeping an eye on the agenda for the next scheduled meeting, Tuesday 9th April, 6.30pm, although there are currently no published agenda.

Also, to reiterate, The Charlton Society is delighted we have been offered match funding by The Rothschild Archive for the many papers and files it holds, which are currently stored in a number of places. We are looking forward to housing all the material securely in one place once we have greater clarity as to the future of the borough archive.

RBG Initiatives

- *Community Engagement Framework*. RBG is currently in the process of creating a CEF help engage with community groups within the borough. The Society has already registered its interest and attended the inaugural meeting last month. Other parties are encouraged to register as residents. Send enquiries to: community.engagement@royalgreenwich.gov.uk.

- *Design Review Panel*. A new panel of architects, urban designers and sustainability experts have been appointed by RBG to provide independent advice on the design of future development in Royal Greenwich. The Society has registered its interest and will keep an eye on developments. All information is detailed on the CS website.

Charlton Station

The Charlton Society has been in regular contact with Southeastern to contribute ideas for content for the display boards at the station. They are specifically working on a memorial to the 5 who perished in the V1 Doodlebug attack in June 1944. Other local institutions have also approached including CAFC (there are rumours that the station may be renamed Charlton Athletic!). This project is ongoing and all ideas for the station display boards are welcome.

Membership Fees

It has been agreed by the Committee that from 1st January 2024 the membership fees will increase to: £15 Individual, Family £18 & Concessions £12. This will apply for new members from 1st January 2024, and to existing members from the 2024 AGM (19th October). It has also been agreed the monthly meeting entrance charge will rise to £3 for members and £5 for visitors from January 2024.

Dates for the Diary

- Every Tuesday, 1.00pm, Charlton House: the weekly concerts have returned, curated by Trinity Laban alumni Stephen Maw. The next concert is on Tuesday 19th March and features classical guitarist Georgi Dimitrov, currently studying at the Royal Academy of Music. The programme will feature the works of JS Bach. Free entry.

- Monday 25th March, 8.00pm, St Richard's Centre (Swallowfield Road), screening and discussion of *Countdown to Calvary*, featuring Hugh Bonneville. Executive Producer Ray Bruce will be present for a Q&A. Free entry.

- Until April 14th, Summer House, Charlton House: *Songs of Lamentation*, an installation by artist Bea Denton created specifically to be viewed through the windows of the Summer House. Bea will give a talk about her work in the Old Library at Charlton House on Saturday March 23rd at 2.00pm. Free entry.

Next Meeting

- Saturday 20th April, 2.30pm at St Luke's: *Friends of Hornfair Park*, presented by Kate Parker.

