



Registered Charity No: 260077

The Charlton Society

Newsletter April 2024

The White Swan

The Charlton Society has been in touch with the Inspectorate and they are currently still trawling through the paperwork; The Charlton Society understands several hundred objections were received. The Charlton Society has been advised it could still take another few months (early summer is an optimistic deadline) 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. 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 looking in to applying for National Historic Listing as an extra safeguard, although the national listing requirements means the building needs to be nationally listed, at Grades I, II or II*, for inclusion on Historic England's Heritage At Risk Register. As the Charlton Village Conservation Area is already designated as 'at risk' and is on the Register, the Charlton Society has been advised to contact both the Victorian Society and also SAVE Britain's Heritage since they both compile their own lists of buildings at risk across the country and feature those buildings in public campaigns. Also, an additional recent turn of events is that The Charlton Society has been advised a family has moved in to the premises. CS have subsequently received confirmation from RBG Enforcement that an unannounced site visit was conducted on 27th March, it has been established a family are temporarily living in the ground floor residential unit, housed by Croydon Council.

RGHT

Not a lot of progress to report. 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 been confirmed by the Trust, the new lift will be installed by the end of April... 10 days and counting! It has also been announced Chair of the Trust, Len Duvall, is standing down.

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 were discussed at the last Committee meeting and an action plan is currently being prepared by the Committee. 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 wishes to attend a CS meeting and is kept abreast of the work The Charlton Society is involved in.

Continued overleaf





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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:

- Lansdowne Lane: the land adjacent to no 85, has now had its site inspection, the planning application [ref: 23/1102/F] will be heard at the next Woolwich & Thamesmead Area Committee meeting on Tuesday 30th April (6.30pm).
- Local Plan: RBG has opened the new Plan consultation (deadline Wednesday 31st July 2024), this is the Council's main planning document and provides the framework for managing development in the borough. This will be discussed at the next Committee meeting and proposals will be presented at the next Talks meeting in May (18th). All input welcomed. All will be detailed on the website. For further information: royalboroughofgreenwichnewlocalplan/commonplace.is.

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 several Regeneration, Transport & Culture Scrutiny Panel meetings, The Charlton Society is keeping an eye on the RBG calendar, the next meeting has not yet been scheduled!

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 in February. Other parties are encouraged to register as residents.
- *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.

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.

Dates for the Diary

- Saturday 18th May, Charlton House plant fair, 10.00am-4.00pm. Free entry.
- Monday 27th May, St Luke's summer fair, 11.00am-4.00pm. Free entry.

Next Meeting

- Saturday 18th May, 2.30pm at St Luke's: *A Tonic to the Nation - Festival of Britain 1951*, presented by Michael Gilbert.

