



January 2025 Newsletter

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*A belated Happy New Year to all Charlton Society Members
and Neighbours*

The White Swan

Since December the rubbish has now been cleared from the side entrance and the door into the rear of the building has been repaired. As of yesterday, it looks as if someone is in residence there again, although whether using the manager's premises or the pub itself is not clear.

Two members of The White Swan Music and Arts Group (TWSM&A) joined the January Charlton Society January committee meeting to discuss what is happening. It was agreed that Charlton Society would reapply for continuation of an Asset of Community Value for the White Swan, which is due to end on 12th July 2025.

Members of TWSM&A explained that following their presence at the December Sparkle in the Park event the petition now reached 1200 and they are building up their supporter base.

The meeting also agreed that we should all keep a close eye on the state of the building as there was a worry that further dereliction could occur.

CHARLTON SOCIETY MEMBERS AND NEIGHBOURS PLEASE keep a good look out for any signs of further damage to the building and if you see anything suspicious CONTACT the Charlton Society Committee. We will then forward this to the Council and the TWSMA group.

Dr Paul Breen has written an article about resurrecting the pub, which can be read here"
<https://www.castrust.org/2025/01/a-return-fixture-for-the-white-swan-would-bring-new-year-cheer/>

Planning Matters

Charlton Riverside: A meeting was held on Monday 13th January between members of Charlton Together and Emma Sweeney, Royal Borough of Greenwich. Emma has taken over from Jeremy Smalley who left the employ of Greenwich Council in December 2024.

Details will be given in the next newsletter, but one person said it was a constructive meeting.

VIP Trading Estate: A meeting was held between Charlton Together and Greater London Investments (GLi) to discuss early plans for redeveloping the site adjacent to Atlas and Derrick Gardens off Anchor & Hope Lane, Charlton. GLi will act both as developers and managers of the site and intend to produce a sustainable development. It is hoped that this first positive meeting will be followed by a longer lasting relationship with the developers.

Environment Agency: The Environment Agency (EA) is inviting river users who may be affected by any changes to the Thames Barrier to share their thoughts. The EA's Thames Barrier Scheme of Operations sets out the movement of the gates for: test closures, experiments, and renewing or replacement works. (Although they are making no changes to it currently, they are expecting to make significant changes in the future.)

The Scheme is prepared in consultation with river users and is approved by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). It now requires its three yearly update and approval from DEFRA.

The Environment Agency encourages anyone who might be affected or who wishes to follow future consultations on the Scheme to complete the form.

Deadline for comments is 19th February 2025: [Thames Barrier/river user consultation](#)

REMINDER

Research Project: 'Women of Greenwich'

A project researching women who have contributed to the history of our borough.

We can all name a few women who have contributed to the history of our local borough. Alongside the better known such as Elizabeth I, there are many more such as inventor Celeste Sinibaldi, artist Jean Cooke and actress Lavinia Fenton. The research team is hoping to gather the names of as many women as possible associated with the borough by virtue of their birth, upbringing, place of residence or contributions to society either locally or nationally. The intention is to tell their histories in a book and on a website for public use.

The project is being organised by Claire Eustance, senior lecturer in History at the University of Greenwich, Carolyn Ayres from the Royal Greenwich Heritage Trust, local historian Dr Ann Dingsdale and Lynne Dixon. If you would like to nominate one or more woman for consideration a digital form can be obtained from lynne.dixon@cantab.net.

The deadline for contributions is the end of January 2025.

Talks Programme 2025

February 15th 2025: The History of Charlton House Gardens. Speaker: Stella Butler, CABAHS
March 15th 2025: Royal Greenwich Heritage Trust. A discussion with Janet Denne, CEO.

The Charlton Society Website

WANTED ASAP a website aficionado who can keep the website up to date and vibrant. Someone with a good knowledge of WordPress and with some time to spend once a month plus a small amount of time to undertake some urgent housekeeping to get us back on track.

