



## March 2025 Newsletter

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### ***The White Swan***

***In response to Greenwich Council issuing a Section 215 Notice*** on the owner of the White Swan some improvements have been made to render the building less of an eyesore. The buddleia has been chopped right back, the small gate on the left of the pub has been reinstated, the plywood front door has been painted black and unfortunately a broken window has been replaced with plywood rather than glass.

The Charlton Society has further requested that the black no. 22 be removed from the side wall and the paladin bin moved to the side entrance. In addition, access to the pub garden from Torrance Close has been secured and just this past week workers were reducing the height of the razor wire topping the fence between the pub and garden.

Does this mean that Mendoza cares for the building or just minimizing the possibility of non-compliance affecting any future planning applications. Let us see....

***Asset of Community Value (ACV):*** It is necessary for the Charlton Society to submit a NEW Asset of Community Value Application to Greenwich Council to run from July 2025 for another 5 years. This is our next task.

The White Swan Music & Arts group, which wants to save the pub and ensure it helps revive Charlton Village's local economy, is fundraising to pay for campaign materials and professional help. It is holding a pub quiz on **Wednesday March 12 at 7.30pm** at the Green Goddess pub, Blackheath Standard. Entry is £5 per person.

### ***State of the Village***

***SOL Properties, 11 The Village:*** Following Charlton Society alerting the Council to the derelict state of the premises this week, the Council responded almost immediately thanks to the intervention by Cllr Jo van den Broek and will inspect the premises with a view to passing the problem to RBG Building Control and the HSE (Health and Safety Executive). There has been no further improvement yet.

***Damaged Planter outside SOL Properties:*** Following a traffic incident the planter was badly damaged but was repaired quite quickly by Greenwich Council. However not with sympathetic building materials. The Charlton Society has now requested RBG to redo the repairs in keeping with the original materials and design.

In the meantime, if you notice any other damage to buildings or street furniture, please let the Charlton Society Committee know and report it the Council via their web site 'Faulty or broken street furniture' or 'Fix My Street'.

***Maryon Wilson Animal Park:*** Following the Council's about-turn to rescind their decision to cut support for the Animal Park, a meeting of the Friends of Maryon and Maryon Wilson Parks met on February 20<sup>th</sup> to discuss next steps. The Friends did not feel able to take on the campaign, but it is obvious that the Council need to start discussing its future with the community soon. One commentator suggested that renewed efforts to offload the Animal Park would start again following next year's council elections. Another suggested seeking funds through CIL (Community Investment Levy) related to the considerable development around Maryon Road and another suggested an event in 2026 to mark the 100 years since the opening of Maryon Wilson Park as a whole. Once again, after years of the Friends pushing for the toilet



building being renewed and extended the provision of such facilities was seen as a way of extending visitor time and numbers in the park. Don't let this subject be lost, the Animal Park is a unique asset.

## ***Planning Matters***

**2B Rathmore Road, Charlton.** The Charlton Society submitted a comment to Greenwich Council. The CS accepted the main changes which lowered the height of the development, we noted with regret the accompanying loss of any ground floor commercial space – thus losing the motor repair shop but commending the developers matching of the surrounding building vernacular in the new development. In addition, we noted the loss of natural light to some ground floor rooms on the Victoria Way side and advised retention of the mature trees on the site bordering the railway lines. We hope to place our planning comments on the CS website in the near future.

**Woolwich Barracks consultation:** The Royal Borough of Greenwich is consulting on a draft planning policy document titled '*Woolwich Barracks SPD: Stage 1 Issues and Options Consultation*'. This consultation sets out the key issues, constraints and opportunities that will need to be considered when bringing forward proposals for redevelopment of the Woolwich Barracks site. Charlton Society will be making a reply in time for the *deadline of March 17<sup>th</sup> 2025*.

*Online copies of the document are available at "Have Your Say Today – Royal Greenwich Planning – Commonplace" Hard copies are available at Woolwich Centre, Eltham and Greenwich libraries, Monday – Friday between 9am and 4.30am. Please add your thoughts about the proposals.*

## ***Talks Programme 2025***

**April 12<sup>th</sup> 2025:** Lost Houses of Oxleas Woods – Dr Tom Wareham

**May 17<sup>th</sup> 2025:** We hope that Edwin Quast will present his talk on The River Ravensbourne. However, there is some doubt over this as he is returning to his homeland Australia sometime in May, so we may need to replace his talk with another. We will let you know as soon as possible.

## ***Out and About***

**In Memoriam:** It is with great sorrow that we need to let you know that Hazel Richardson died on February 21<sup>st</sup>. Hazel was a great support to the Charlton Society and to husband Roden. She was a real gentlewoman, ready to help or give good advice, she is sorely missed. Our sympathy is with her sons and families. A memorial service will be held at St. Luke's Church on Tuesday March 18<sup>th</sup> at 2.30pm. A family funeral will be held on Monday March 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Charlton Village & Riverside Safer Neighbourhood Team** are holding a Drop-in Surgery at Charlton House, Main Entrance on Monday March 10<sup>th</sup> between 12 noon and 1pm.

**Woolwich Works- The Windrush Front Room Exhibition - Tuesday March 4<sup>th</sup> - Sunday March 16<sup>th</sup> 2025.** Take your friends and family down memory lane.

Learn about the history of Woolwich and the African & Caribbean Front Room. Enjoy the immense experience of this award winning Windrush Front Room Exhibition with the Glass Fish, Bluespot Gram, Jim Reeves LP, Plastic Pineapple ice bucket, home drinks bar and the Axminster carpet.



The Charlton Society: Registered Charity No. 269977