



July 2025 Newsletter

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The White Swan

Asset of Community Value (ACV): Charlton Society applied to renew the ACV on the White Swan on April 10th. According to the Greenwich ‘Community Assets Team’ the Council had 8 weeks within which to assess the application and give their decision. No answer had been received by June 30th (12 weeks after submission) and the Community Assets Team could not be located. As a result, Carol Kenna submitted a Public Question to the Full Council meeting to be held on Wednesday 23rd July. A more formal question from the Charlton Society was rejected on the grounds of it being too personal! We now await an answer from the Full Council.

The White Swan Music & Arts group: We have no further information as to how the group is progressing in establishing community ownership and putting together a financial package. But we stay in touch with them.

Occupiers: The large paladin bin has now been moved to the side of the pub, improving the look of the frontage slightly.

State of the Village

SOL Properties, 11 The Village: Remains derelict.

The Assembly Room car park: Fewer cars have been seen using the car parks, but a parking warden has been seen patrolling the area and on one occasion allocating a parking ticket – hurrah!! I wonder if the parking fees cover his salary?

Other Shops: You may have noticed that the paper shop is undergoing a major facelift and 33 The Village has also been redecorated, we wait to see type of shop that will emerge.

Village Planters: The recent planting of the planters with geraniums has greatly enhanced the look of the High Street. We will stay in touch with the Council’s Parks department hoping to see the revised planting scheme installed one day.

Planning Matters

Bowes, 33 The Village: Application to develop as a 5 bed HMO.

Charlton Church Lane, Hairdressers: An application has been made to turn 2/3rds of the Class E retail premises to residential use. While keeping the remaining 1/3 as Class E. On behalf of Charlton Society, we made representation against this application as contrary to the belief that Class E premises should be retained where possible, and that the retention of part of the ground floor property for Class E purposes resulted in a badly designed and unfit for purpose residential unit.

Greenwich Local Plan: We wait on RBG releasing this for consultation , we are told in October.

Greenwich Council’s ‘Sustainable Streets’: Controlled Parking Zones to include Charlton, Blackheath, Kidbrooke, Plumstead. Shooters Hill and Woolwich. The proposal and survey can be found here: <https://sustainable-streets-rbg.commonplace.is/> . Deadline for the consultation is August 22nd. Cllr. Matt Hartley, Leader of the Conservative Opposition on Greenwich Council has called for an extension to the consultation.

Main proposals include Parking permits, pay and display bays on various roads, new cycle storage hangars and dockless cycle bays, Electric vehicle (EV) charge points, Additional Car Club Bays Plus, more trees, safer road crossings. The consultation areas for Charlton are split into 3: Charlton Riverside, Charlton Station, Charlton Hornfair.

English Devolution Bill: The government has published its long-awaited English Devolution Bill. The bill sets a framework for a standardised approach to devolving powers to local areas, aiming to empower communities and streamline decision making across planning and local government. Take a look at the Planning Portal – if you are interested, Carol Kenna can forward you the link.

One key takeaway: Going forward, mayors of strategic authorities will have planning and regeneration powers -just like the Mayor of London does. It contains some interesting changes to managing Assets of Community Value.

Talks Programme 2025

August 2025: *Charlton Society Summer Break*
20th September 2025: Jane Lawson: Urban plants – weeds or wonders?
18th October 2025: The Charlton Society AGM
Talk: Greenwich Enterprise Board projects: Max Skomorowski.

CS CARDS: There will be a selection of potential new cards at the meeting.

Please take a look and cast your vote.

Out and About

Our Lady of Grace Church, presbytery and school: An invitation from their Parish Council: I would like to invite you and any of your colleagues to an event / exhibition we are holding at the parish Hall this weekend. On Saturday it will be held between 4 pm and 5:15 pm and on Sunday it will be between 10 am and 2 pm. I have included an attachment, number 3, regarding this event which will include a talk by Historian Nikos Karydis.

In response to a request from Llydia Selby the Charlton Society will meet their group to understand how they aim to proceed with the protection of the Estate.

Charlton House Historic Tours: 1st and 3rd Friday of every month starting 1st August 2025. Book through Eventbrite available on Charlton House website: www.greenwichheritage.org

The Charlton Society - The Committee:

The Society AGM 18th October 2025

when we will need new Officers and ordinary members.

SO PLEASE STEP UP to keep the Society a forceful voice in the future of wider Charlton. Officers include Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Minute Secretary and Membership Secretary, a person to take on the role of devising a talks programme and people interested in planning matters and encouraging new members.

Especially a techy- someone who would like to develop our website for those people who may not be able to attend meetings.

Remember the Society is only as strong as its membership.



The Charlton Society: Registered Charity No. 269977