



May / June 2026 Newsletter

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The Charlton Society is a Registered Charity No. 260077

The White Swan

You will all be aware that Mendoza has entered a new planning application to install four flats in The White Swan. This will require a second floor being built, ostensibly in the style of 19th century The Swan. But many of the proposed changes will render a ground floor pub unviable and difficult to run. It also goes completely against the ambitions of The White Swan Music & Arts group. Comments to Greenwich Council concerning this application were due to be received by 1st June 2026 although many of you have already commented. Due to the response the application will now have to be considered by the RBG Planning Committee and has also been called in by our local councillor. Sign up here: <https://www.whiteswanmusicandarts.org> to receive their newsletter.

Asset of Community Value (ACV): We are still waiting for the official notice!!!!!!!!!!!!!! We have been informed by the WSM&A group that the Council are asking for further information – they have not seen fit to inform The Charlton Society who are joint applicants with TWSM&A. We will keep pursuing this.

State of the Village and SOVAP

Car parks on Torrance Close: There is no formal notice of a planning application to develop the land behind No. 60 The Village and its neighbouring house. However, the land has been fenced off and temporary cabins erected.

There is no further information as to the future use of the Assembly Rooms car park.

Planning Matters

GLi Data Centre application: Charlton Together met recently to discuss the current state of the proposals to build a Data Centre off Anchor & Hope Lane. There is still concern at the size of the proposed centre and its negative effects upon Atlas & Derrick Gardens and businesses in the industrial site. The group anticipates a planning application will be forthcoming possibly by September this year. Members of the group will be producing a short summary of the issues involved to be circulated soon.

33 The Village

In December 2025 CS was informed that the application to turn 33 The Village into an HMO had been approved. There is currently an application pending agreement of demolition procedures and building materials Ref: 26/1482/SD.

HMOs

The number of applications to turn family homes into Houses of Multiple Occupation seem to be increasing. In particular, Charlton Church Lane, turning shops into HMOs and Floyd Road, both areas in easy reach of Charlton Station. Not only do these conversions result in residences of minimal standards but also create problems with refuse collection.

Talks Programme & Events 2026

Next Talk: 20th June: How Charlton helped connect the World - Alan Burkitt-Gray
18th July: Charlton in the 18th century: a rediscovered map – Barbara Holland

Events: 21st June: St Luke's Church at 4pm. Organ Recital by Hugh Davies
28th June: Summer in the Park: Maryon Park. 13.00 – 18.00 pm

Ruth Dodson, In Memoriam:

That Ruth's funeral at Eltham Crematorium on 2nd July was so well attended and by whom was fitting for such a remarkable woman. Alongside family and old friends, there were many in attendance who were newer friends who had come to know and admire Ruth as someone who contributed so much to the local community. In addition to having been an active member of Greenwich Labour Party, Ruth played leading roles with The Charlton Society, Charlton Neighbourhood Forum and The Garrison Church. The collective loss is all the more tragic as she was only fifty-nine and had been looking forward to moving to Cromer, back to her beloved Norfolk. Her energy, enthusiasm and commitment will be greatly missed by so many. She was a friend to many and will be remembered with deep affection. Our condolences go to her family and in particular her beloved son Oliver.

Out and About

Maryon-Wilson Park: The exhibition to celebrate 100 years of Maryon-Wilson Park opened on Monday 8th June until September in Charlton House. It is worth a look and can be seen during the open times of the House itself – Weekdays: 9.30 am – 3.30pm and Saturdays: 9.30am – 3pm.

Woolwich: Waterfront Leisure Centre: Is no more, the only swimming pool where you could swim in view of the River Thames. Greenwich Wire reports that Greenwich Council plans to demolish the riverside complex and sell the site for housing. The site will be fenced off until it is redeveloped. Expect more towers of flats and the canyon between the Woolwich Ferry entrance and MacBean Street will be complete. On a positive note, the pedestrian route between Hare Street and the entrance to the foot tunnel could be restored after 37 years being subsumed into the Waterfront. Ever wondered why in the early days you had to gain access to the western section by going upstairs along a corridor and then downstairs to reach the badminton courts?

The Rotunda: The Rotunda Trust was incorporated on 25th March 2026 as a Building Preservation Trust to acquire and conserve this Grade II listed building.

The Rotunda was constructed as one of several temporary structures for the Wellington Fete in 1814 celebrating Wellington's victory over Napoleon Bonaparte. It was moved to Woolwich Common in 1814-1820, when it was enclosed in a brick drum. It served as the Royal Artillery Museum from 1820 to 2001. The laminated roof structure is one of the earliest known examples of large-scale laminated construction in Britain.

The building is currently owned by the Ministry of Defence and is on the market for disposal. The Rotunda is listed by Historic England as Grade II* and 'At Risk'.

For further information see rotundatrust.org.

Remember the Society is only as strong as its membership.

