



May / June 2025 Newsletter

w.charltonsociety.org / e: charltonssocietysec@gmail.com

May and June newsletters have been amalgamated due to the pressure of work dealing with several planning applications requiring responses.

In response to a member's suggestion the newsletter will be sent out prior to the monthly meeting to encourage discussion of Charlton concerns by members.

The White Swan

Asset of Community Value (ACV): The submission for a renewed application of ACV was submitted in April and is now under consideration. The Council has 8 weeks to do this.

The White Swan Music & Arts group: We understand that the WSMA Group have now established communication with the owner of the building. They are also in discussion with Plunkett UK, a charity providing support to community businesses, around establishing a community share scheme to access grant funding, build long-term public support for community ownership and putting together a financial package.

Occupiers: The Charlton Society have been trying to assess who exactly is occupying the White Swan. We believe there is a resident security presence, but we don't know who else yet.

State of the Village

SOL Properties, 11 The Village: Still no further improvement yet.

The Assembly Room car park: We understand that efforts are being made to restore the gardens to the Assembly Rooms, which appear to have been subsumed into the car park. Gwen Zammit, SCARP and Janet Denne, Charlton House are working on this together.

Village Planters: You may recall that back in 2023 the RBG Parks department agreed a new type of planting that could better withstand current climate changes, require less maintenance, and will provide some screening between the road and pedestrians. This has been delayed repeatedly, CS are meeting RBG this coming week to discuss what can be salvaged in a time of great budget cuts.

Empty Shops: There is good news too. There have been some enquiries regarding the SOL properties store, empty for many years, and the ex-estate agents on the south side. We could be adding an Italian Deli to the shops on the south side of the street and the Village Florist – Tudor Rosette has confirmed that the rumour that they may be closing is incorrect – THEY ARE STAYING – so Earle Place will continue as a vibrant village landmark.

Planning Matters

Bowes, 33 The Village: The Charlton Society has been informed just this week, that following the refusal of Mr Boyraz's proposal to redevelop the shop and add two flats to the property by Greenwich Council and the Planning inspector, he has submitted a new application to develop the property as an HMO comprising 5 residencies. See planning application 25/1463/F. The CS has until June 30th to make comment.

Millennium Car Park Redevelopment: This proposal is to replace B&Q with a residential development while maintaining IKEA and the Cinema. This application was related to details for car parking – or the lack of it apart from a small number of spaces for residents with disabilities and commercial parking. The CS expressed our concern that the car free proposals would create further problems in the surrounding neighbourhood with cars searching for parking facilities and echoed the Council's own concerns that it could have repercussions on the setting of the Greenwich Maritime World Heritage Site. We made comment on the developer's proposal to include rest benches in the car park to

counteract the disabled parking being further that the called for 50 meters from people's front doors; also the inadequate screening between the flats and the adjacent A102.

Charlton Park, Charlton Park Road. 25/0685/L Repairs to the wall have begun on the Park side.

Faraday Works: Plans to build 359 flats on the old Siemens factory site next to the Thames Barrier have been withdrawn after five years. There is a good description of this on Greenwich Wire.

Kimoto: Plans to build 500 homes near the Thames Barrier, on a site next door to Tarmac and a protected wharf were approved by Greenwich Council, despite fears expressed by the Planning Committee over potential air and noise pollution from Tarmac. Their permission includes building two through roads for local and through traffic and a contribution to a bus route. This is an important development in delivering the Charlton Riverside Masterplan.

London Plan: The Mayor of London released a lead-in document called 'Towards a new London Plan' for a 6-week consultation period from May 6th. A revised London Plan is expected in 2026.

The Royal Borough of Greenwich Local Plan is expected to be out for consultation this autumn.

We plan to add Charlton Society comments on planning applications to the website in the near future.

Talks Programme 2025

19th July 2025: Lynne Dixon: The Angerstein Family at Home.

August 2025: Charlton Society Summer Break

20th September 2025: Jane Lawson: Urban plants – weeds or wonders?

CS CARDS: Have you photo images you think will make excellent Christmas cards or views of Charlton?

We need to refresh our cards for sale and are looking to replenish our stock in time for the October Horn Fair.

PLEASE SEND YOUR IMAGES TO US at charltonsocietysec@gmail.com

Out and About

Maryon Wilson Animal Park: Since the successful community-led campaign to save the Maryon Wilson Animal Park from closure, the Friends of Maryon and Maryon Wilson Parks have gained some new members and have been working to raise the profile of the parks in the wider community. We are also looking at ways of making improvements in the parks in general, as well as possible methods of raising money to support the council's running costs in the animal enclosure. Any ideas, help and advice welcome!

Animal Park Open Day: Saturday 21st June 2025, 10am – 2pm. A free family day out: Meet the animals; watch the sheep being sheared; a pond side story telling; chat with members of the friends group.

Our Lady of Grace Church, presbytery and school: The congregation has now been told the Church can stay open for another year. However, the row continues amongst fears that the site will be sold and Highcombe House, Grade II listed, lost. The Charlton Society are to offer support.

The Charlton Society - The Committee: The Society AGM is coming up in October 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.

In particular, is there someone out there who would be willing to undertake the role of **Treasurer**. Other officers include Chair, Vice-Chair, 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.

Remember the Society is only as strong as its membership.

