

CHAIR'S REPORT

Charlton Park Residents' Association Annual General Meeting

16 May 2023

Charlton Park Activities 2022/23

Events:

The Platinum Jubilee Afternoon Tea was held on Sunday 5 June It was a lovely afternoon – an opportunity to celebrate the Queen's remarkable reign. Thank you to all who helped to make it happen. To note we were able to secure funds from CBC to cover the event and as a result we were able to toast the Queen with Prosecco and organise children's games with prizes.

Treasure Hunt in September - Our thanks go to Helen Ledger and Jo Fountain-Barber for organising an enjoyable quiz walk around Charlton Kings. The winners were Sarah and Alex and families in KAC we will be asking them to do the 2023 quiz for residents later this year.

The Halloween Event took place on Sat 29 October. Our thanks go to Rachel Lavin, Holly Cameron and Sue Clark and their families for making this event happen. A very busy and enjoyable event so many children, costumes, pumpkins.

The Carol Singing had to be cancelled due to snow! It really came down in a few hours. It is always unfortunate when this happens but it was too cold and damp despite looking very Christmassy.

Easter Egg Hunt Thank you to Holly Cameron and Sarah Evans and families for setting up the trail and meeting families on the day. The weather was great and there were about 20 children who turned out.

Other items:

CPRA Constitution

Thanks to our residents we revised the CPRA constitution and archived the 40 year old version which had served us well. The new version is on the CPRA website. Our thanks go to Donald Hawkins – KGC, Christine Wisdom – KHC, and Nigel Stephenson – KWD for working through it so diligently and pulling together something we could all agree with and use (hopefully for the next 40 years).

Installation of new lamp posts on the path behind KWD

The hedge fire in September 2021 highlighted the need for new lamp posts near the path off KWD. Our thanks to CKPC, Glos County Council – Paul Baker and Glos Highways – Steve Hambridge for listening, supporting, funding and installing these extra lights. Collaboration in action!

Facebook - Charlton Park Community page continues to grow. We now have regular contributions and we have now 191 people signed up. Thank you to Rachel Lavin (KHC) for continuing to coordinate and be the admin.

Web pages – Thanks to Cliff Carter (KWD) for managing the Charlton Park website (KWD). <http://charltonparkcheltenham.org.uk/>. The Constitution, Welcome Letter, dates of events and the history of Charlton Park can be found on the website – please take a look.

Speedwatch - Our thanks go to Helen Ledger and Sue Rockett who have coordinated the Charlton Park response to speeding and getting yellow lines considered for the entrance to KAC to stop poor parking which had the potential to lead to accidents. Cllr Paul Baker is taking this forward on our behalf, and we will report on progress as we hear it.

We also have some stickers for bins '20 is plenty' to remind drivers to slow down when they drive on the estate. Contact Helen Ledger if you want any.

Road surfaces – we alerted Glos Highways to the state of the roads but it seems they are not bad enough! We will keep an eye on them and if they get worse we will report again. But please feel free to also report – the more that do it the better!

Wildlife - we are happy to report that the bird boxes on King William Green, Charlton Park Drive and out toward Moorend Road continue to be used. They were inspected last autumn and lots of old nesting material removed, ready for new occupants this year. Our thanks to Steve Watts (KGC) for cleaning out 9 bird boxes in the area.

The Queen's Green Canopy – Lynda and John Rowland applied to the commemorative tree planting scheme and we received 15 saplings via the Woodland Trust. With the help of Chris Chavasse, the CBC Trees Officer we planted the saplings along the path towards Moorend Road. Please look out for these as the first few years are when they are the most vulnerable to changing weather conditions, animals and human activity! Thank you again to all involved especially Lynda and John.

The Balancing Pond – a perennial problem due to overgrowth and rodents. Thank you to Helen Ledger for persevering – she has Bovis (now Vestry) on speed dial to ensure they come and tidy it up. I suspect they decided to do just that early this year when they applied a rather rigorous response to our requests but nature has it and the nettles around the pond are growing back! We are still chasing for them to fix the fence.

Rodents – they have been seen away from the pond and in gardens around the estate. Please report them to the Council.

Poppy appeal – Yet again, the generous people of Charlton Park donated the sum of £440.03 for the 2022 Poppy Collection. Thank you!

Bus Stop Garden - the garden has developed and grown giving us a garden full of blossom and flowers to enjoy all year round.

Our thanks to all the volunteers for their weeding, raking, pruning and continued time given which makes Charlton Park such a pleasant place to live.

Grit bins – Glos Highways will continue to top up the 3 grit bins on the estate but residents need to be prepared to use the grit. A few years ago we had a band of people out doing some gritting especially on CPD but this winter very few took part. Please help your neighbours if you can and then we all benefit.

Food Bank Donations - Thank you to everyone who contributes to this. The boxes are at 4 KHC, 18 KGC, 10 KWD and 5 KAC. John Rowland is organising the collections – if you can help please get in touch with John at 21KWD. Our donations go to Cornerstone Cupboard – so if you can help it does make a difference

Note From Sue at Cornerstone: *The Pantry is seeing more working people and single parents who have never had to use a food bank before now finding themselves with no alternative. People struggling with debt are increasingly using the Pantry too, mostly due to increased energy costs. We have also had Ukranian and Syrian families now regularly accessing the Food Pantry.*

Along with the increased demand, unfortunately we have seen a drop in donations from supermarkets, almost halve compared to last year.

Thankfully, generosity within the community including the Charlton Park residents has not diminished. We are very grateful for your continued support.

The Cornerstone Cupboard Food Pantry was set up in 2020. Numbers using the Pantry increased last year to an average of 44 households compared to 28 households in the previous year. We currently serve about 100 families a month, averaging 55 to 65 families each week

Charlton Park Poetry Group – The Charlton Park Poetry Group is still going strong after four years. Meetings take place approximately once a month with a different theme each time. Members choose poems to read to the group as well as having the chance to write and present their own work. If you would like to join, please contact Lynda, the Group organiser and CPRA secretary.

Litter Picking and Weeding - Thank you to everyone who litter picks and does some weeding. So many people on Charlton Park do their bit – it makes a real difference. The area has lots of people walking through, driving and parking and unfortunately occasionally leaving litter. Despite this the area is well maintained by people who care about their environment. You know who you are!

Flood Warden

Cheltenham Borough Council set up a Flood Warden Scheme in 2022. It is voluntary and Charlton Kings only has a handful of volunteers and Andy Parnham is the Flood Warden for Charlton Park. He monitors the river levels and flow from the bottom of Cox's Meadow to Moorend Road. Thanks to Andy for taking on this role.

Local Trades

It is great to see so many people offering such a range of services. Yoga to financial planning, window cleaning to chauffeur, cake making to electrician. We will do our best to get your information on the noticeboard and in the newsletter.

Charlton Kings Parish Council – as a Charlton Kings Parish Councillor I have the opportunity to get involved and lead other Charlton Kings initiatives e.g., CK Futures the Parish Council response to climate change. Also, it ensures Charlton Park is included and actively involved in discussions and initiatives. I hope you have all received a copy of the CKPC Annual Report and I would be interested to have any feedback.

Please look at the **CKPC website**

<https://www.charltonkingsparishcouncil.gov.uk/> and Facebook page for regular updates.

Warm & Well – fortunately the winter wasn't bitterly cold for months but the cost of energy is not getting cheaper so please look out for your neighbours and also check the noticeboard for places to go when the weather does get difficult again later in the year.

Rachel Lavin

Thank you to Rachel Lavin (KHC) the CPRA Events Organiser who left the committee in 2022. She was an active coordinator of many of our great events – Hallowe'en and the Easter Egg Hunt. These are so well received, and the children (and adults love them). Rachel will continue to manage the Charlton Park Community Facebook group on our behalf. Thank you to Rachel and her family for all their hard work.

Welcome to new residents – Charlton Park is a great place to live and we want to welcome anyone who moves to CP. There is a welcome letter on our website. If you know of any newcomers, please let someone on the committee know and we can say hello.

Committee membership

The Committee has 11 active members – to whom I would like to say thank you. Lynda and John Rowland, Anne Berry, Helen Ledger, Christine Wisdom, Lloyd Surgenor, Donald Hawkins, Sue Rockett, Caroline and Cliff Carter. Plus, the NHW volunteers and our road reps. We are always looking for more volunteers to support activities. and you don't have to be a Committee member. We need people to step forward as these activities only keep going due to goodwill and getting involved. Please speak to any Committee member or me if you can help. Thanks!

The next committee meeting is to be held at 9 KGC on 6 June if anyone wants to join us. All welcome!

Next Event is the Summer Picnic on the Green on Saturday 1 July from 5pm. Please join us for a lovely evening of music – remember to bring your own food.