



Useful Phone Numbers

Greenwich Council 0208 854 8888 (switchboard)
website: www.greenwich.gov.uk

Cleansweep 0208 921 4661
Deals with abandoned vehicles, blocked drains, dead animals, dog fouling, drug litter, fly tipping, graffiti or fly posters, litter or overflowing bins, obstructions, pavement and road repair, street lighting and street signs.

Fixmystreet.com <http://www.fixmystreet.com>
A good way of alerting the council to any problems i.e. abandoned beds, holes etc etc!

British Transport Police – Neighbourhood Policing Team 0208 694 4255
email: LS-BTP-Lewisham-NPT@btp.pnn.police.uk
Covers Lewisham, Blackheath, Charlton, Woolwich Dockyard, Woolwich Arsenal, Plumstead, Abbey Wood, Belvedere, Erith and Slade Green.

Crime Stoppers 0800 555 111

Safer Neighbourhood Team 0208 721 2734
email: charlton.snt@met.police.uk
A team of Police officers dedicated to dealing with non-emergency crime and safety solely in the Charlton area.



Charlton Central Residents Association (CCRA) is committed to ensuring a safe and friendly community. Please join us!

Membership News – Rising But We Want More!

Our membership is growing we have 115 members from 83 houses which is fantastic. The roads that have the most members are Elliscombe and Swallowfield. In Elliscombe 25% of all households are members, Swallowfield has 21%. Our area also covers Sundorne, Inverine, Delafield & Priolo Roads, Nadine Street, Wellington Gardens & Wellington Close, Gollogly Terrace, Calydon Road and Coombe Lodge. The more houses that are members the stronger the voice.

JOIN US TODAY – call 0208 853 1811 or email charlton_residents@yahoo.co.uk for a membership form.

Classified Ads

Fancy some fun surfing this summer?
1.5 metre bodyboard for sale £20 ono. Call 8858 4920

Can You Provide a Service or Do You Have Something to Sell? **Reach 700 Houses in the local area and support your local residents association.**

Classified Ads Rate: 10p per word. Website addresses counted as two words.

Display Ads: £10.00 per single ad or £35 for four issues

Deadline for July issue will be Monday 16th June. Please note space may be limited, and it will be first come first served.

Contact by email ccra_communications@yahoo.co.uk or telephone Linda on 0208 858 7377.

Charlton Central Residents Association

Following are the contact details of the elected officers, or email

Charlton_residents@yahoo.co.uk

Chair Colin Brown 0208 244 2405

Secretary Len Weir 0208 858 4920

Treasurer Dave Picton 0208 858 4942

Membership Secretary

Jacqui Mitchell 0208 853 1811

CHARLTON GRAPEVINE

VINTAGE 2  APRIL 2008

the newsletter of the Charlton Central Residents Association

A Picture of Health?

Important changes are soon to be made to hospital services in our area. Grapevine reports that if the preferred option, currently being consulted, is accepted the effect on CCRA would be as follows: Ante-natal, maternity and post-natal

services would be based at the Queen Elizabeth in Woolwich with units at the Queen Mary's Sidcup and some services at Lewisham Hospital closing. The PCT wants to enable more mothers to have home births. A specialist obstetrics/paediatric service would also be based at the QE, although for very serious and complicated conditions babies and children may need care in a highly specialist unit such as the one at Kings College.

Queen Elizabeth would retain a full Accident and Emergency

Department to deal with serious emergencies as well as a new Urgent Care Centre for the more routine services such as fractures. The QM at Sidcup would retain its Urgent Care Centre but would lose its Accident and Emergency Department so more people from a wider area would be treated at the QE. However, if an ambulance crew believed that the emergency was of a sufficiently high risk then the patient would be taken to a specialist unit at the London, Kings or St.Thomas' Hospitals.

The big change for us however, is the transfer of

planned surgery to the QM. Only emergency surgery would be undertaken at QE. We were told that separating planned and emergency surgery would

reduce the risk of hospital acquired infections because it would be possible to screen people who were waiting for planned operations. It



was suggested that fewer operations would be cancelled because urgent, unplanned admissions take priority. So, if you have a serious health emergency, you are most likely to be taken to the QE and receive and necessary surgery there – unless you need the sort of highly specialist unit only

available in the big London teaching hospitals. But, if your surgery is not needed immediately then you will go to the QM.

We asked about the current overspend at the QE and whether the changes were being made for financial reasons. We were told that leaving things as they are would mean a continued overspend and we have been provided with detailed financial information about the proposals.

Representatives from our local PCT have said they would be pleased to come to a meeting of our Association later in the summer and the consultation team would very much like to hear from our readers – call Freephone number 0800 321 3579. The consultation will last until 7th April.

If you wish to make a comment on the proposed changes, CCRA is prepared to put these on your behalf. Contact Elaine and Dave Picton (Wellington Gardens) 020 8858 4942 or email ccra_residents@yahoo.co.uk





reveals that most want to recycle. However it is the implementation and the lack of clarity that CCRA take issue with. Two concerns from residents have been taken up with the Council:

- Storage of black sacks. There is nowhere to keep these before collection unless residents are prepared to buy extra bins. Many residents put out rubbish the night before and with the warm weather approaching and foxes desperately looking for a meal we are looking at a potential health and safety issue.
- What goes where? People are confused about what to do with those difficult items that do not seem to belong in any clear category. These include cardboard waxed juice boxes, Hoover bags, dog hair, cat litter, aerosols, light bulbs, disposable razors and cling film.

RUBBISH!

The 'Green Blue Black' Campaign has meant a change for all of us. Many an evening or weekend is now spent on rubbish duties sorting and cleaning items prior to disposal. The Council has employed shock tactics in getting people to respond to national recycling targets but a straw poll of members

In response to the second issue a spokesperson from Greenwich stated that that the council have "deliberately avoided making long lists as they

In relation to our specific queries the following was advised:

Item	Blue-top bin	Black Bin	Where Else?
Light Bulbs	✓ (Wrapped in newspaper)		Energy efficient – pink electrical bins at council recycling centres
Clothes Fabrics		✓ ✓	Charity shops for those that are re-usable. Clothing banks will make use of even very worn fabrics, which can be recycled as rags
Shoes		✓	Clothing banks
Aerosol cans	✓		
Disposable razors Vacuum cleaner fluff Tumble drier fluff Pet hairs		✓ ✓ ✓ ✓	
Cat litter		✓ (sealed in bag)	
Tetra Packs (waxed cartons that contained juice, milk etc.)		✓	Special disposal points
Batteries			Special disposal points

become hard to read and a lot of the information is irrelevant for most people. It is better to re-iterate the following guidelines:

Blue top bins – all glass, plastic (except garden furniture and toys), cardboard, paper and cans

Green Top bins – all garden and good waste, anything organic including paper and cornstarch sacks

Black Sack – anything that does not go in the wheelies above.”

“The purpose of being non-specific, the spokesperson advised, is to keep it simple so that they receive ‘100% of what can be recycled and a little of bit of what can’t, rather than make complicated rules that would mean we would miss some recycling.”

CCRA suggested that there should be free provision of half size black wheelie bins for black bags all as well as free black sacks, caddy liners and a bin cleaning scheme. We also expressed a need for a weekly collection of black sacks. The spokesman responded that the scheme was introduced after “consultation and consideration of existing patterns of rubbish collection. These patterns indicated that 4–5 black sacks worth of rubbish was going into wheelie bins each week. With the introduction of the scheme and the separation of waste the need for black sacks (and other bought bin liners) has been greatly reduced bringing down costs for residents.” CCRA were advised that smaller 140 litre, green or blue bins can be provided on request (0208 921 4661). The council will swap them but stated that there can often be a wait for delivery as priority at the moment is making sure that everyone has a bin that wants one. There was no response about a free bin cleaning scheme.

We also discussed the policy on non-compliance as it is not clear the means by which items will be removed if left outside a property or being recycled incorrectly. The response was that “83% of the borough are complying” but they do have the option of fixed penalty fines and the use of waste auditors who will visit households that are not complying to find out what the issues are. The spokesperson felt that this was still early days and there were bound to be teething problems.

We are very interested in representing views of residents on this issue. If you have any comments please contact an elected officer, numbers on last page, or David Gayther, Environment Group Lead on ccra_environment@yahoo.co.uk

Thames Water Update

The water mains replacement work is continuing to affect the area. This project will clearly bring major long term benefits, but we are disappointed about the limited and inaccurate information we are getting from Thames Water. For example, major work has just begun in Delafield Road, with the road closed for ten week, although CCRA were advised work would not start until 2009 at a recent consultation event. We were also told work would be starting in Elliscombe Road in January which has now been put forward to 2009. Residents in Wellington Gardens had letters to say work would commence on 19th March and within days a further letter to say it is delayed with no further information provided. We are concerned about the poor condition of some roads and footpaths following work and we have also had reports of serious abuses of ‘emergency access procedures’ where no emergency in fact exists. By using this procedure contractors can cut off water supplies to residents without notice, often for periods of more than four hours. We are continuing to keep up the pressure, with support from local councillors, and have made the following formal requests on your behalf:

- Thames Water supply a detailed work plan as it affects each road in our area for the coming year
- Thames Water monitor the work of their contractors (Skanska and Morrison) more closely so that roads are all left in at least the same if not improved condition
- Clearer advance warning signs are placed on streets prior to work starting
- Signage is improved so that it is clear what the work is about, how long it will take and contact numbers are given in case of problems
- Thames Water take some responsibility for providing electrical survey information and further support to residents for residents

We will keep you posted of any further developments. If you have particular concerns or problems contact an elected officer or David Gayther, Environment Group Lead on ccra_environment@yahoo.co.uk

“I heard it on the grapevine...”

Lock Your Door!

Following burglaries in Elliscombe and Priolo Road, PC Roy of the Safer Neighbourhoods Team wants to make people in the area aware they should double-check their front doors on leaving in the morning / locking up at night – particularly the UPVC type with integral lock which appears to be targeted at the moment.

Free Computers for Over 50s

CCRA member HB has advised that if you live in London and are aged over 50 you are eligible for a



free computer as part of a scheme organised by London Mayor Ken Livingstone, computer company Maxitech and Age Concern. The scheme has been very

popular and registrations will be taken again in September 2008. Call 0207 820 6770.

Use it or Lose it – Support Your Local Chemist

Grapevine Reporter

Did you know that Totty's chemist, on the corner of Sundorne Road and Charlton Church Lane, has had only two owners in the last 100 years. Michael Totty, the current owner, bought the shop just over 40 years ago from the Clarke family who had owned it for over 50 years. Michael told us that Charlton Church Lane used to be a thriving local shopping area, with two butchers, a baker, two greengrocers to name but a few. Over the years the larger supermarkets have replaced many local specialist shops, providing a one stop shopping experience for busy people. However Totty's remains a valuable and unique local service.

There are many advantages to having a local chemist and pharmacy, not least the very personal advice and information that cannot be obtained elsewhere. Many older people who are housebound rely on Michael Totty to order, organise, review and deliver their medicines to their homes. Increasingly, young mums and dads with babies are seeking his expert advice as it's just a short walk to the corner to get reliable information about medicines and what might be suitable and available without a trip to the GP.

Michael says that because he knows many of you he is able to offer personalised advice to ensure that remedies are suitable to take with your prescribed medicines. He also provides advice about first aid, general health problems and can signpost you to other healthcare services. His advice for travel is invaluable. So, let's make sure we keep a local chemist. After all – who wants to go to the supermarket when you feel ill!

Cattleya at Chu And Cho,

52 Charlton Church Lane. Tel 0207 642 1014

Grapevine Reporter

Since Chu and Cho opened, this small restaurant has built up a loyal following for its simple but authentic Spanish tapas, a friendly, informal atmosphere and its support for local artists and musicians, including frequent music nights, and changing displays of artwork, some of which are for sale.

Supporters of this little cultural oasis in downtown Charlton had cause for concern when the original owners moved away earlier this year. However, new owners have given the place a new lease of life, by cleverly retaining the traditional tapas, and its friendly ambience, alongside an excellent range of Thai cuisine.

The tapas are still cooked to the original recipes used by the previous owners - which keeps long-standing customers happy. Both types of food represent excellent value for money. Most tapas dishes are £4-5 each, with Thai dishes, which are complete meals, about twice that price. A good meal with wine generally costs around £25 per person. The food is simple but good. The small bar area gives the restaurant a continental feel with some people just calling in for a drink - perhaps a San Miguel or a glass of wine.

The restaurant is open every day with the exception of Monday. On alternate Sunday evenings there is a music event featuring local musicians - many of whom are extremely good. There have been many memorable nights when players get together and things just seem to click creating a fantastic jamming session! *If you would be interested in joining us for a CCRA members night at Chu and Cho contact Sarah on 0208 244 2405.*

Charlton on Wikipedia

Grapevine Reporter

An interesting picture of Charlton and its women is offered by Wikipedia:

"At one time, Charlton enjoyed a somewhat sordid reputation. In the 1720s, it was described by Daniel Defoe: 'Charleton, a village famous, or rather infamous for the yearly collected rabble of mad-people, at Horn-Fair; the rudeness of which I cannot but think, is such as ought to be suppressed, and indeed in a civiliz'd well govern'd nation, it may well be said to be unsufferable. The mob indeed at that time take all kinds of liberties, and the women are especially impudent for that day; as if it was a day that justify'd the giving themselves a loose to all manner of indecency and immodesty, without any reproach, or without suffering the censure which such behaviour would deserve at another time.' (from *A Tour through Great Britain*)

Will our CCRA social event on 23rd April to live up to this reputation? See Social events for more details of our members event! Read more about Charlton at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charlton,_London but be aware that the accuracy of some of its entries is often called into question. Anyone can edit web pages in Wikipedia if they create an account and the content is meant to be copyright cleared and verifiable but you can see some content is posted without these standards.

www.greenwich-guide.org.uk is a web site run by local resident Alan Palmer (Elliscombe Road) as part of the Greenwich Guides organisation, and offers a more in depth and local view of our area. For an alternative view of Greenwich, with sections such as 'Secret' and 'Weird' Greenwich and details about Charlton in 'not quite Greenwich' visit The Greenwich Phantom at <http://www.thegreenwichphantom.co.uk>. This site is very amusing and a site that starts an article with "Who needs to go to Barcelona when you have Charlton on your doorstep" deserves our support! To find articles about Charlton, type into the Search Box.



Greenwich Auctions

Grapevine Reporter

For all those who like watching the plethora of bargain hunting, collecting and antiques programmes on TV, or are just addicted to ebay, you may be interested to know that there is real live action on our very own doorstep in the shape of Greenwich Auctions, a local auction house based at 47 Old Woolwich Road (0208 853 2121).

The auctions are of the 'general sales' type, covering general antiques, collectables and all sorts of household goods. Recent items sold range from the usual furniture, china, and pictures to items you wouldn't get anywhere else, such as a full size 19th century cannon, a Victorian magic lantern, and a sailor's chest from the 'Cutty Sark'. It is a completely mixed bag, and as such is ideal for those who haven't done anything like this before. Sales take place every Saturday at 11am, with viewing on Friday afternoon, and the morning itself. For those that can't make the sale, there is the option of bidding by phone for any item (and fantasise about playing the 'Mr Big on line 3' card...). There are usually about five or six hundred lots, ranging in price from a fiver to several hundreds of pounds, occasionally more. You have to take your chances, and inevitably, with the frequency of auctions and the large amount of lots, the quality does vary. However there are always nuggets for those prepared to browse carefully, particularly through the many lots that are the product of local house clearances. Viewings can be as good as a trip to a local museum and you can probably learn more about the local history of our area from viewing the auctions than in any other single way. You simply never know what's going to turn up at the sale the next week and you will do everything to get your 'fix' of viewing. Although there are the usual fees for both buyers and sellers, the process is transparent, straightforward, and usually good fun. And what you see is definitely what you get.

View Across The Valley

Grapevine Anon!

Doom and gloom is spreading across the Valley as Charlton struggle to make the play offs let alone automatic promotion. The Championship is a difficult league and it is very tight this year. It is hard to say what exactly is wrong at the moment. The

team plays reasonably well but cannot seem to score. Lack of consistency has been a major problem, blamed by some on the number of loan players. It is not too late yet, but luck does not appear to be on Charlton's side this season.
Addicted from the West Stand



Deliveries of Mercury and News Shopper

Report from Communication Group

CCRA resident JS has asked CCRA to find out what has happened to deliveries of Mercury and News Shopper in Elliscombe Road which is also a problem in Swallowfield Road. A call to The Mercury met with a first response that this road is an 'uncovered road for budgetary reasons' but Swallowfield Road is supposed to be covered. Further discussion managed to get agreement that we could put a call out in the Grapevine to see if anyone aged 13+ would like to deliver The Mercury for the area. Current rate is 5p per paper and if Swallowfield Road and Elliscombe Road were covered would earn approximately £9.00 per week. Call 0208 977 2705.

The News Shopper also does not have anyone to cover our roads. Rates were difficult to establish as they fluctuate depending on size of paper. If you are interested in delivering the News Shopper as well, call 0845 2766779 to register your details. In the meantime The Mercury is available free (whilst stocks last) outside Atkins the Lettings Agency by the station.



A Street Car Named 'Pay-as-you-go'

Report from Communication Group

Streetcar has arrived in Charlton with three cars available to members. Car clubs are an excellent method of car sharing, allowing members to experience the benefits of car ownership without the hassle and expense. If you drive to work every day then it's not for you but if you use a car a couple of times a week then it really makes sense for both your pocket and the environment. There is an annual club membership fee of £49.50. Cars in Charlton are then available for £5.95 per hour or £49.50 for a 24 hour period regardless of whether your trip is taken during the week or at a weekend. You must be aged between 19-75 and have held a valid driving licence for at least 12 months.

How to book: Go to www.streetcar.co.uk and search for availability of your nearest Streetcar or phone 0845 6448475. There are three available, one in Wellington Gardens and two in Sundorne Road.

ADVERTISEMENT

We're talking major impact!
A display advert like this will reach 700 residences
and currently costs only £10.00

Deadline for July issue is 16th June. Contact the Editor on 0208 858 7377 for details or email ccra_communications@yahoo.co.uk

Space will be limited, and it will be first come first served. Book now.

Letters to the Editor



Following our letter in the first issue about introduction of 20m.p.h or speed bumps most feedback has been supportive. If you wish to contribute your views contact Elaine on 0208 858 4942.

A CCRA resident JS has contacted CCRA to ask if it would be possible at the next AGM, to discuss a reduced rate of the elderly for membership. We are happy to include this on the Agenda and if anyone else has matters they

would like to add to the Agenda for the meeting in September send them to CCRA Communications Group Lead, 26 Wellington Gdns or by email to charlton_residents@yahoo.co.uk.

Letters to the Editor are most welcome and will be included where space permits – any views expressed are those of the writers and not the Association.

CCRA Social Events

London Marathon Breakfast

Sunday 13th April

Join neighbours at the Rose of Denmark situated on the lower Woolwich Road to cheer along the runners after a good breakfast. Meet at 8.30am for breakfast or outside to watch the runners.

Member's Spring Social

St Richards Hall, Swallowfield Road

Wednesday 23rd April from 7.30 – 10.00pm

Charlton musicians Chris Harrison, The Greenhouse Affect and James Wills, will be playing for CCRA members at St Richards Hall in our first ever large social event. Please do come and support us. Good wine and other refreshments will be available along with snacks. A raffle will also be held. This will be an opportunity to meet other CCRA members and your neighbours; CCRA will let you know what we have been doing and what our future plans are.

This event is for members only but other eligible residents will be able to join on the night, membership costs £5.00. Children very welcome. Please remember to bring your membership card to the event. Non members can attend if accompanied by a member and a £5.00 entrance fee will be payable for non-members.

Nearly New Sale

St Richards Hall, Swallowfield Road

Saturday 3rd May, from 2 – 4pm

Tables will be offered to members first and then to non-members. Cost will be £5.00 for a table and entrance to the event will be 50p. If you would like to take a table or if you have any good quality items that you would like to donate to CCRA's table, please telephone Jacqui on 0208 853 1811 (Swallowfield Road). Setting up will be from 12.30 onwards.

Open Garden Day

Saturday 14th June, from 2 – 5pm

This is a fund raising event for CCRA. We are asking members to open their gardens to other members maybe offering a cup of tea, glass of wine or barbecued sausage in return for 50p entrance fee! Full list of residents taking part will be made available nearer the time to members. Member's who attend all the gardens can collect signatures from each house owner and will be entered into a prize to win a £5.00 garden centre voucher. Please offer your garden and make this a great garden crawl, hopefully on a lovely sunny afternoon. Contact Elaine on 0208 858 4942 (Wellington Gdns).

Date for your diary

AGM on Wednesday 24th September – St Richards Hall. More details to follow.

Coming soon

Fund Raising Quiz night,
Local History Tours,
Winter Farmers Market...

Editor's Note

What do you think of the Grapevine? Let us know what you would like to see in it next time or make a contribution yourself.

Contributions to:

Linda Pound

(Wellington Gardens) 0208 858 7377

Elaine Picton

(Wellington Gardens) 0208 858 4942

Email to:

ccra_communications@yahoo.co.uk

Deadline for content is Monday 16th June